



Thursday, February 4, 2016

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SOUTH MUST TAKE MORE REFUGEES

Report by Peter Madeley

WEALTHY southern areas of the country should take their fair share of Syrian refugees, says Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The Labour MP said that asylum seekers were overwhelmingly concentrated in poorer communities in the North and the Midlands, while many richer areas in the South had taken 'virtually none'.

He said this was putting a strain on public services including schools and hospitals, and called for a fairer distribution of asylum seekers across the UK.

Mr Austin was speaking in a Parliamentary debate on the resettlement of refugees following the Government's commitment to house another 20,000 from Syria.

Dudley supports nearly half as many asylum seekers as the entire South East, he said, while wealthy communities represented by the Prime Minister and nine other cabinet ministers had not taken in a single asylum seeker.

Mr Austin also said there were 380 asylum seekers in all of the areas represented by the cabinet – fewer than in either Wolverhampton or Sandwell. He highlighted official figures showing that the Black Country councils had taken in almost as many asylum seekers as the South West, South East and East put together.

Support

He said: "People in Dudley have always played their part in welcoming people fleeing persecution abroad, but it's about time people elsewhere did the same."

"The Government must find a fairer way of dispersing people around the country to ease pressure on public services like housing, schools and the NHS in communities like ours."

Last year an investigation by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star revealed that one-in-three asylum seekers were sent to the West Midlands. Asylum seekers receive £36 a week, known as Section 95 support, while their application for refugee status is assessed.

Dudley had 226 asylum seekers supported under Section 95, while Sandwell had 695, Wolverhampton 645 and Walsall 234. A total of 1,800 were housed in the Black Country. In the South and East there were 1,843.

Mr Austin wants to see EU structural funds used in areas such as the Black Country that face the biggest pressures on public services.



Ian Austin MP

GUITAR MAN TUNES UP FOR CHARITY CONCERT



Musician and Stourbridge vintage record and guitar shop owner Pete Boddis will be performing a fundraising gig with his band at the Robin 2

A MUSICIAN and vintage record shop owner will be headlining a gig in aid of charity.

Pete Boddis, who runs a guitar and record shop in Stourbridge, will be raising the money by performing his own material at the Robin 2, in Bilton, on March 20 at 8pm.

The night will be in aid of Breast Cancer Now with the Pete Boddis Band and the Free-wheelin' Band.

Mr Boddis, aged 71, said: "Music is my passion and we'll be joining together to sing a few songs and raise some money for charity. I've done other gigs at the Robin 2 before and

it's a nice venue. We felt that we wanted to do something as a band for a good cause and this seemed the perfect way."

The Pete Boddis Band is a six-piece group comprising Pete on vocals and guitars, singer Marilyn Bos, Pete Arrowsmith on lead guitar, Ken Moore on sax and harmonica, Robin Johnson on bass guitar and drummer Kevin Bettingham.

They were formed to play Mr Boddis' original songs written over the past 30 years.

The Free-wheelin' Band is fronted by singer-songwriter Ian Sutherland.

His shop contains vintage guitars, mandolins, ukuleles, a collection of country music clothes and vintage records.

Mr Boddis is also a collector of vintage stringed instruments and his collection includes an American acoustic guitar made in 1886 and a 1960s bass that belonged to The Who's John Entwistle.

Tickets are £5 available to buy at the Mount Pleasant venue – call 01902 401211 or see www.therobin.co.uk – or Mr Boddis' shop above Stourbridge Music Centre in Lower High Street.

COURT

Teen charged over gun and ammunition

A TEENAGER has appeared in court accused of possessing a revolver and live ammunition without a licence.

Shaun Scott, aged 19, of Westminster Close, Dudley, was also charged with alleged harassment and possession of cannabis. He did not enter a plea for any of the four charges.

Scott appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday charged over the alleged offences.

He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on February 29.

DRUGS

Police find £58k worth of cannabis

AROUND £58,000 worth of cannabis was found by police at a flat in Hale-sown.

Officers discovered 58 cannabis plants in the ground floor property in the early morning raid on the address at Manor Lane on Saturday.

Police reported no-one was in the building at the time of the swoop and no arrests had been made in relation to the incident as The Chronicle went to Press. Anyone with information can call police on 101.

THREATS

Hoax callers strike again at six schools

SIX schools in the Black Country and Birmingham have received more hoax bomb threats – causing disruption for the third week in a row.

Police said the 'false and malicious' calls were received on Monday after 8am. Lessons were resumed by 10am.

Oldbury and Bristmell Hall academies were threatened for the fourth time, and Shireland Collegiate Academy and Perryfields High for the second time. Hall Green Secondary School and Edgbaston Girls High School faced threats for the first time.

Last week two 14-year-olds were arrested regarding earlier hoax calls.

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CUBS ENJOY BIRTHDAY BASH



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Manhunt leads to capture of fraudster



Marvin Campbell – jailed

A FRAUDSTER convicted of his role in a £730,000 fraud has finally been captured after a manhunt traced him to Halesowen.

Marvin Campbell, aged 28, was jailed for more than eight years in his absence last month at Birmingham Crown Court.

Campbell, of Willingworth Close, Bilston, and Henry Ogunde, 33, of Goode Close, Bilston, had approached people on the streets of the West Midlands, taking them for dinner and buying them clothes in order to gain their trust.

They used these people as 'money mules' to set up bank accounts, fake companies and move cash for them. If they had been groomed resisted they were often threatened with violence.

Unemployed

Those involved were offered up to £40,000 for their complicity but in reality, at most, only received a few hundred pounds. Among those targeted were unemployed people living in social housing or with no fixed address.

The pair netted £730,000 of fraudulently obtained cash and goods.

Campbell pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud, two counts of concealing, disguising, converting or transferring criminal property and possession of articles for the use in fraud. Ogunde was found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud, two counts of merchant services fraud, money laundering and two counts of possession of documents for use in fraud.

The National Crime Agency said Campbell was found at an address in Halesowen. He had two months added to his eight and a half year sentence at Birmingham Crown Court last week.

An ambitious expansion is proposed at Hindu temple

A HINDU temple in the Black Country, that is already the largest in Europe, has revealed a major expansion plan.

Ambitious proposals for the 21-acre Balaji Temple complex in Tividale have been submitted. Sandwell Council to construct a new building for processions and festivals.

These set out a scheme to construct a 15-metre-tall building, which would house a festival chariot, and to build a processional route around the site off Dudley Road East.

Temple trustee Dr Venkataramanan Rao said the scheme would ensure the temple was better equipped to host some of the key Hindu festivals.

He said: "At the moment we can't keep the chariot anywhere outside because it's made of wood – that's why we need this new building."

"All the temples in India and also those in London have chariots and places to keep them. It is an important part of the worship of Hindu gods, that's why we have a chariot."

"At the moment the route around the temple won't hold the weight of the chariot. The chariots are normally pulled by 20 or 30 devotees."

The application states: "To accommodate a large chariot, the internal floor area is 30 sq m and height of the building reaches 14.9m. Eleven metre tall roller shutters have been incorporated into the design for easy movement of the chariot in and out of the building."

Council planners will rule on the application in due course.

Driving instructor is guilty of sex attacks

A DRIVING instructor was facing a substantial prison sentence after being found guilty of sexually assaulting his pupils.

Gary Rolinson, who ran the 500+ Driving School in Kingswinford, preyed on teenagers, interfering with them during driving lessons, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

A jury last week took seven hours and 24 minutes to convict the 60-year-old of 13 offences of sexual assault and one of causing a person to engage in sexual activity, following a 14-day trial. The crimes, committed between 2012 and 2014, involved six 17-year-old and 18-year-olds. Rolinson was acquitted of a further alleged sexual assault on another 17-year-old.

He was remanded on bail for reports to be prepared until a date to be fixed.

Judge Andrew Lockhart QC said: "You have been convicted on overwhelming evidence of a campaign of assaults on young men. It is certain that you will be sent into custody."

After the verdict, the judge told the jury: "Don't worry about your children going to a driving instructor. This kind of case is very rare."

Touched

Rolinson inappropriately touched his victims after they made a mistake while driving, the court was told. He denied all the charges.

Rolinson, of Andover Crescent, Kingswinford, launched the 500+ Driving School in 2008 after being made redundant from Rover. He was arrested by Staffordshire Police in 2012 after a teenager complained about Rolinson's behaviour during a driving lesson but officers decided to take no further action after inquiries failed to find any corroborating evidence.

Two years later West Midlands Police received a complaint from another youth and, after discovering it was the second of its kind, wrote to the 750 men and women of all ages that Rolinson had taught to drive over three years. As a result more youths came forward who were prepared to go in the witness box.

Detective Constable Fiona Hatfield said: "I would like to commend all the young men on being so brave in coming forward and giving evidence."

Mayor opens estate agents' branch



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walther, cut the ribbon with manager Paul Keeling and Mayoress Jayne Walther. THE Mayor of Dudley joined in the fun when an estate agents chain opened its latest branch in the town's High Street.

Councillor Steve Walther cut the ribbon to officially open the new Shipways office at the junction of Stone Street.

Shipways has refurbished the former Thomas Cook premises to create its largest branch in the West Midlands.

As part of the opening celebrations a programme of entertainment was put on for the public in and outside the branch.

The entertainment included a stilt walker and visits from such popular children's characters as the Minions, the Hulk and Buzz Lightyear and various Star Wars characters.

Manager Paul Keeling will be leading a team of nine staff at the new branch.

The chain, which has its head office in Leighton Buzzard, has nine other offices in the local area including Hagley, Kidderminster and at Great Barr.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Bishop of London suggests that bearded vicars may find it easier to "reach out" to Muslims. The snag, of course, is that a majority of new priests in the Anglican Church are female. A burka, perhaps?

THE Mad World of Donald Trump (C4) seemed to start with a prejudiced title. But the more you watched Matt Frei's hour-long documentary, the more the word "mad" seemed appropriate. Donald Trump is triumphing because America is scared and wants a new messiah. It's scared of migration, scared of terrorists, scared of things that are foreign, alien or not understood. The irony is that the perceived solution – electing President Donald J Trump – is scarier than anything else.

BUT let's not be too snippy and superior. How many Paris-scale massacres would it take in London, Birmingham or Manchester before Trumperry arose in England?

THOSE of us who once owned a raccoon-skin hat may have lived to see the beginning and the end of the TV revolution. It began in the 1950s when we kids suddenly discovered that no game of cowboys and Indians in a freezing street was half as good as the Cisco Kid on a nine-inch Pye in a warm lounge. The TV revolution entered its demise this week with the report that internet-savvy kids are no longer watching much telly. The TV companies, while putting a brave face on it, must be absolutely terrified.

EMMA Reynolds, Wolverhampton MP and former shadow minister, is, like many MPs, too young to remember life outside the EU (or Common Market as we were told to call it). When she says leaving the EU would be "the worst of all worlds,"



she is addressing an ageing electorate, many of whom recall Britain before the 1975 referendum, and remember it rather fondly.

I WONDER if Worcester feels any sense of communal shame over the rush by hordes of locals chasing the £33 million Lotto jackpot. Okay, one or two may genuinely believe they have the winning ticket. But Camelot report hundreds of claimants, suggesting attempted fraud on a massive scale. Oxford is the city of dreaming spires. Is Worcester the city of scheming liars?

A READER shares a gem of a platform announcement at Birmingham New Street. It works best in Brummie accent: "Platform Six for the 16:33 to Northampton, calling at Marston Green (slight pause) and lots of other places."

ADVERTISING staff go into a school and ask children how clean they feel after wiping their bottoms on toilet tissue. Aren't Andrex TV ads weird?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass in a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



Road disruption ahead for motorists

MOTORISTS in Stourbridge face disruption after plans for two major roadworks schemes on busy routes around the town were announced.

Drivers have been told to expect delays next month.

Resurfacing work will start in Birmingham Street, near Stourbridge tip, from February Monday. Works will stretch from the ring road to Stamford Road and drivers are told

to expect diversions, temporary lane markings and stop-and-go signs.

Initial work will be carried out at night with a road closure in place until February 14 as officials try to minimise disruption.

Diversion

A signed diversion route via A491 Hagley Road, B4186 Glasshouse Hill and Grange Road and A4036 Grange

Lane and Pedmore Road will be in place.

Work on the opposite side of the road, heading towards the ring road, will take place between 9.30am and 3.30pm using stop-and-go signs or temporary lane closures.

Meanwhile, a separate resurfacing project will be under way at the same time in Amblecote. Work on St Johns Road, between Amblecote High

Street and Hagley Road, will be from 7pm until 3am using lane closures.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We always work hard to keep disruption to a minimum whenever undertaking highway improvements but on such a key route some disruption is unfortunately inevitable. Work has been scheduled to avoid peak traffic times and we hope to complete the project as soon as possible."

£25k fund to set-up a scheme for traders

AROUND £25,000 of funding has been secured for a project aiming to boost investment in Halesowen.

Campaigners are hoping to set up a Business Improvement District to fund a range of projects in the town centre.

Public events, clean-up programmes and improved marketing are among projects which could be funded through the scheme.

The BID scheme will see firms join forces to create a single company, with each member paying a levy. Members will then get to decide how the money is spent.

It is estimated that a BID company in Halesowen could generate £51,668 with a one per cent levy and £103,337 if it is set at two per cent.

Halesowen BID manager Barry Wheeler said he was delighted the group had secured the start-up funding through Dudley Council.

"We are happy to have this money now to allow us to move forward," he said.

This cash allows business plans to be drawn up and a glossy brochure is being created to help market the scheme.

Mr Wheeler said he would be holding meetings with traders this month to encourage signing up with BID.

A majority of members are needed to vote in favour of setting up the scheme when a poll is taken in late spring.

A similar scheme is being worked on for Stourbridge.

Registration is launched for runs

THIS year's Black Country Run will take place in Halesowen on Sunday, July 3.

Registration has already opened on the event's website at www.theblackcountryrun.com and this year there will be a 5k family fun run alongside the 10k event.

Last year more than 1,100 runners took part in the 10k event organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Those taking part in the main event and the family fun run will help to raise lots of money for various charities and good causes. The 2015 run raised £23,000 and the total amount now raised for charity since the inaugural event in 2012 is £77,000.

The 10k race will start at 9am and the fun run at 11.30am.

Beach Boy brings his Pet Sounds to Brum

BEACH Boys legend Brian Wilson is to play in Birmingham onto mark the 50th anniversary of one of his band's most famous albums, The Pet Sounds anniversary tour visits Symphony Hall on March 18 with his bandmates Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin.

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Charity, yes but wrong person to promote it

NOW, I've never heard of the charity Survivors of Domestic Abuse before, but if it offers help and support for victims of marital violence then it sounds like a very worthy cause.

So why, when it was collecting money at Tesco in Stourbridge, did it choose "White Dee" Deirdre Kelly from Benefits Street to promote its fundraising effort? I know we live in a television-obsessed age, where anyone who has appeared on the small screen is now considered to be some kind of celebrity. But does somebody, whose main claim to fame has been milking the benefits system for years on end, really make you want hand over your hard-earned cash? Surely they could have found a better ambassador.

□ □ □

ACTOR Will Smith has spoken to clarify his boycott of last month's Oscars. Although I'm not sure 'clarify' is the word.

"The media creates the 'us and them' and for me there is no us and them, it's 'we,'" he said. Don't really know what he is talking about, but might have guessed it would somehow be the media's fault.

"There's a regression of America in general of separationism ... so for me it's more about putting my hand up and reminding my community, the Hollywood community, that we have to lead. Diversity is America's superpower, that is what makes our country great, and in Hollywood we have to be pushing forward even in a time of wider regression."

I think that's luvvie speak for he wants Hollywood to ensure all communities are represented. And he's right.

This year's Oscars nominations were a disgrace. Ten categories, 221 nominations, and all from the same narrow group.

Not a single actor from the Black Country. I definitely won't be attending next year.

□ □ □

BUT seriously though, amid all the eulogies to Sir Terry Wogan, the one comment that stood out was that he was the man who introduced 'the accent' to the airwaves.

Unashamedly proud of his Irishness, Wogan himself said his distinctive voice gave him a "classlessness" which meant he couldn't be pigeon-holed.

If only we were so enlightened when it comes to domestic accents. Sadly though, almost exactly half a century since he joined the BBC, there is still a perception that anybody with a Midland accent – regardless of their social background or educational achievement – is a figure of fun, okay for stand-up or playing the dimwit in sitcoms, but lacking authority when it comes to the serious stuff.

Want to do the difficult stuff? Better fake a Home Counties accent, old boy.

Clearly, some accents are more classless than others.



Cubs tuck into fish and chip at the Black Country Living Museum



Explorers – the youngsters run through the museum's streets



Eyes love cupcakes, says Georgie Young during the day out

Cubs get together to mark 100 years

More than 1,000 Cub Scouts descended upon the Black Country Living Museum, **NICK HUMPHREYS** reports

MORE than 1,250 youngsters and leaders descended on the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouts.

Dubbed The Wildest Birthday Party Ever, children from across the region enjoyed an action-packed day out at the museum, with boat rides, a visit to the school and trip down a mine.

The event on Sunday, January 24, kicked off proceedings for the organisation's centenary year celebrations.

Mark Baché, assistant county commissioner for the West Mercia Cub Scouts, has been involved with cubs for more than 30 years.

He believes that despite the amount of games and gadgets available to youngsters nowadays, cubs is still as strong an institution as ever, and offers essential learning, fun and adventure for children. He said: "We've had lots of things going on and we've kicked things off with a bit of a party."

"They had a tour of the museum, they went in the school, in the mine, they have done all of it.

Adventure

"For me, it's about giving young people fun and adventure. We do all sorts of activities. The weather was a bit overcast but it was been warm enough for us and stayed dry which was the main thing."

"It was fantastic, the kids had a brilliant time and it was a great way to start our centenary year."

"We have our County Camp in July, which is called Jungle Jam 100, and there will be lots of different events at local clubs over the year."

"Our activities will finish for the year on December 16, when we'll be renewing the promise."

He added: "Scouting is the West Midlands



1st Bromley-Pensnett cubs get ready to sample a celebration cake shaped like a cub's shirt

is huge and we do some amazing things. We have also teamed up with Dudley Canal Trust and are taking 800 young people and adult volunteers through the tunnels under Dudley."

Alex Peace-Gadsby, chief commissioner for England, hopes the centenary celebrations

draw attention to the cubs, and inspire more youngsters to get involved.

She said: "So many great things are already in place. We've got some fantastic partners providing days out for cubs across the UK and there's a brilliant new website packed full of

resources to help make it an unforgettable year."

"By our reckoning, there will be more than 5,000 thanks events, adventure camps and Promise parties."

"The anniversary represents both an opportunity and a challenge. It's a great opportunity to inspire young people to stay to the very end of cubs and make the jump into Scouts."

"I'm so impressed and grateful at the way volunteers are using the year to provide an even more adventurous programme for our young people, with plenty of opportunities for camping and sleepovers – exactly the sort of thing that keeps cubs coming back for more."

"Whatever we do for Cubs100, we mustn't let this opportunity pass us by."

"Rather than celebrate behind closed doors we need to give the world a taste of the special fun, magic and optimism that has made cubs such an incredible success over the last 100 years."

There are around 150,000 cubs aged between eight and 10 in the UK.

Cubs forms the middle section of a Scout group, with the Beaver colony below and the Scout troop above.

There are seven challenge awards in scouting, with categories being Outdoor and Adventure, Beliefs and Attitudes, Community, Fitness, Creative and Global. Activity badges are awarded for demonstrating skill or achievement in a particular subject which may be an existing hobby or a new area of knowledge.

There are currently 34 different badges available. Cubs take part in activities as diverse as kayaking, abseiling, expeditions overseas, photography, climbing and zorbing. They also learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming, or even how to fly a plane. Organisers say it's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

Scouts develop skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment.

West Mercia Cub Scouts covers Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire. For further information, visit www.westmerciascouts.org.uk

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Every dog is a nuisance, even friendly ones

WHY does D White think that just because dog owners use Himley seven days a week, 52 weeks a year and pay a parking fee to do so, that should entitle them to call the shots about how the park is used?

Has he/she ever considered that may be the reason non-dog owners do not go as often. The dog owners allow their dogs to run free and defecate anywhere.

You may say that they pick up after them and I am sure the majority do, but can you honestly say that you pick up every little bit and what happens if they are not used?

Following this incident he developed a terror of dogs so bad that at seven

years old he jumped into the path of a car to avoid a dog on the pavement.

The fear was passed on to his younger sister and going out became almost impossible. The only thing we could do was to have a puppy of our own to get them used to dogs.

Now 45 years later history has repeated itself and my granddaughter is now terrified to go to the park due to an identical incident. To a non-dog lover every dog is a nuisance dog, even if they are on a lead.

J JAMES
Wordsley

Thank you for mom's home care

IT is difficult caring for a relative living and dying with cancer. My mom died last September having been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the previous six months.

She had good days when we could go out and about, and bad days when she needed to just sit and rest. The last five days were particularly hard when she was really poorly.

We could not have coped at home without the specialist care of the Dudley palliative team, who were exceptional.

From the carers who helped her to maintain her dignity to the district nurses and Macmillan nurses who controlled her pain. During the night Marie Curie nurses would sit with her, enabling me to have a reasonably night's sleep.

I cannot praise these angels enough for their dedication and compassion at one of the worst times in my life.

JACKIE FARRINGTON
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Write with care on high speed vehicles

THE January 28 edition of the Chronicle contained two detailed reports of horrific deaths and injuries caused by irresponsible drivers.

Your headline was 'Call for sports car road ban'. This featured a 21-year-old woman waiting at a bus stop killed by a driver as he raced at 100 mph in a 40 mph zone on Hagley Road West. He was racing against a friend in another car. One was a Mitsubishi Evolution, the other a BMW M3.

On page three you featured 'Speeding killer driver gets 40 months prison'. A Mercedes E250 driven at up to 93 mph, and at 61 mph at the moment of impact, killed a 39-year-old pedestrian.

Most folks would immediately demand that this kind of driving should be discouraged and drivers encouraged to behave more responsibly.

Yet in the same edition of the Chronicle the motoring correspondent writes in such a vein as to almost encourage high speeds in different models. Surely this could be construed as an invitation to risk death or serious injury to pedestrians and other road users.

PETER BIDDULPH
(address supplied)

Intelligent stop lights are needed

I have always thought road islands are better as there is always flow around them whereas with traffic lights I find I spend a lot of time waiting at a red light with no traffic coming across.

In this age when we are talking about driverless cars it must be possible to have more intelligent lights. I'm sure these have been around for some time, so why are they not used more extensively?

The main problem with the larger island is when the speed of the cars can be a problem to get on them. So how about speed bumps around larger islands?

It appears that those who manage our roads do not appear to know what they are doing. Here's some examples: £75,000 spent on traffic calming measures down Barrs Road - to no effect; time and money spent on Grange Road island - no better; two lanes into one at top of Mucklow Hill - chaos. C FANTOM
Halesowen

Window Shopping this Winter?

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- ✓ **De Rosa Glass Home Improvements** only use THE BEST products available on the market
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De Rosa Glass Home Improvements is still run by the same De Rosa family, we have a large showroom on Planks Lane, where Emma De Rosa is on hand to meet you directly and discuss any projects you may be considering.

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BBA Approved - the only local company to achieve this - This means that De Rosa Glass Home Improvements had to pass a series of assessments, including onsite evaluations, quality management checks and inspections before we were awarded a Certificate. This is recognised by building control, architects, specifiers and industry insurers. It's a mark of quality, safety and reliability that provides reassurance of the products being fit for purpose. Once again reassuring you, the homeowner of a peace of mind purchase.

CPA - Consumer Protection Association - De Rosa Glass Home Improvements are proud members of the CPA. The CPA will only deal with proven and accredited companies, they fully vet the Company in question for professional competence and integrity, which continues throughout the membership. They are also regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



Why shop anywhere else!

and offer a range of services to protect you, the consumer when purchasing window improvements, once again delivering complete peace of mind from beginning to end, beyond guarantees. Customers complete questionnaire's and send them back directly. CPA also issue a 10year insurance backed guarantee.

Checkatrade - As members of Checkatrade, once again we have gone through a number of checks and assessments, and most importantly, including speaking to customers directly as part of this process. The customers complete questionnaire's and send them directly to Checkatrade, where this is then published on their website. As a company, you have to be 100% confident in both your product and workforce before you join such a scheme as the feedback is published to the public for all to see, what better recommendation is there for the consumer?

Products - De Rosa Glass Home Improvements are well known for using the very best products that the market has to offer. We do not believe in using inferior products and pride ourself strongly on supplying quality and most importantly secure products that will stand the test of time. All of our products are on display in our showroom.

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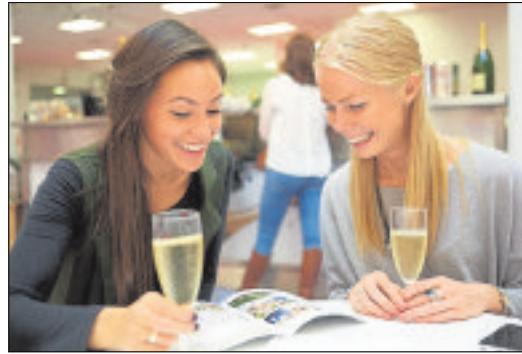
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'I hope lessons will be learned from tragedy'



Linda Cooksey, of Kinver, with an apology from the Department of Work and Pensions, following her brother's suicide

A SISTER who received a Government apology after her brother committed suicide when his benefits were cut says she hopes lessons have been learned.

Linda Cooksey brought a two-year campaign to a close when departments personally wrote to say sorry.

Mrs Cooksey's brother, Tim Salter, took his own life two years ago when he was threatened with eviction from his home in Meddins Lane, Kinver.

South Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh had ruled the sizeable reduction in Mr Salter's benefits had



Tim Salter – died after benefits cut

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Parents jailed after baby had multiple fractures

A COUPLE have been jailed for child cruelty after their baby daughter was found to have terrible injuries.

The eight-month-old girl had seven fractured ribs and further fractures to both arms and a shoulder blade, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She also had a 'very large' number of bruises over her body and limbs, said Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting.

The shocking discovery was only made after her father Wayne Jones called 999 just after midnight on February 12, 2014, to complain that he was feeling suicidal.

The mother was not at the flat in Halesowen after leaving the little girl in his care while she went out for the night and she had not come back.

Pain

When the apparently well-dressed baby was lifted by the paramedics she appeared to be in pain and was taken to hospital along with Jones.

"He was discharged but the child was found to have a very large number of bruises to her body and limbs."

"Further investigation found the fractures," said Mr Linnemann.

Experts concluded the injuries had been inflicted on at least two separate occasions during the preceding two to seven weeks.

Both 27-year-old Jones and the child's mother - Abbie Jones, aged 19 - were arrested the same day.

"The cruelty must have been serious, whoever inflicted it," said the prosecutor.

A relative had previously noticed bruising to the child's body and forehead.

Abbie Jones admitted causing or allowing a child to suffer serious injury.



Wayne Jones - two and a half year term



Abbie Jones - jailed for 20 months

Northfield, Birmingham, was jailed for two and a half years.

Abbie Jones, who lives in Halesowen, was sent to jail up for 20 months.

Failed

Judge Kristina Montgomery QC reminded the pair of the injuries sustained by the little girl.

She told them: "There were fractures to seven of her ribs, both upper arms and one of her shoulder blades.

"You both failed to protect her from those assaults."

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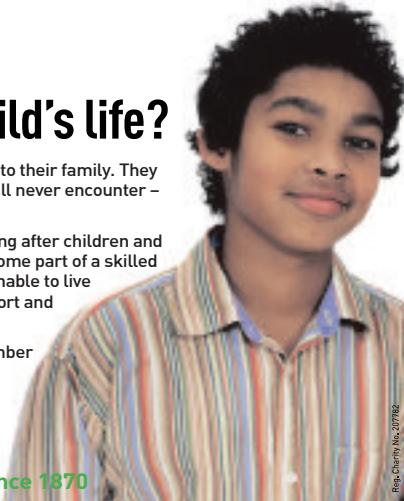
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Expansion pays off as sales soar



The vast showroom has so much on display



The new state-of-the-art showroom with market leading products

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

DW Windows Ltd has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years.

Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, al-

lowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hard-earned money.

Company director Dave Watters states: "It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place. "The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself."

"I am not a businessman, I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilton and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

"I try to install this work ethic into all of my staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without



Wolves legend Steve Bull at the official opening

them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations."

Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.

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storm



Collision closes Brettell Lane

A BLACK Country road was temporarily closed after a crash involving two cars near a busy junction.

Four people were treated at the scene following Saturday's smash on Delph Road in Brierley Hill.

Police closed the A461 Brettell Lane at around 5pm while they waited for the vehicles to be removed.

Firefighter Rob Fullwood, watch commander at Brierley Hill Fire Station, said: "There were two cars involved and four casualties. They were all out of the vehicles by the time we arrived so we didn't need to cut anyone free."

"The ambulance service checked them over one the side of the road and police closed one of the roads while they waited for the vehicles to be taken away."

Paramedics not on board for thousands of emergency calls

PARAMEDICS were not on board emergency vehicles sent to thousands of 999 calls across the Black Country during the past four years, figures reveal.

Instead, ambulance technicians or emergency care assistants – both less qualified – attended.

Figures show that, in total, paramedics didn't attend 23,912 call-outs during the period.

This includes 86 'red 1' emergencies, the highest category for patients who have suffered cardiac arrest or who have stopped breathing.

West Midlands Ambulance Service, which is based in Brierley Hill, said it was 'fully committed' to achieving its ambition of having a paramedic on every emergency vehicle. Bosses have recently launched a recruitment drive to find 150 student paramedics to bolster numbers.

During the past 12 months, there were some 3,674 emergency call outs in the Black Country not attended by paramedics.

The ambulance service has defended the figures, saying these 23,912 call outs over four years make up just 1.8 per cent of the total call outs for crews across the region.

Spokesman Claire Brown said: "West Midlands Ambulance Service is the best performing ambulance service in the country, with all staff doing a fantastic job responding to an average of 3,000 emergency calls a day around the region."

"As a trust we have the highest ratio of paramedics on the frontline of any UK ambulance service and we are fully committed to achieving our ambition of having a paramedic on every emergency vehicle."

"All our staff are developed and trained to a high standard, which means we continue to provide the very best care to patients."

Jack's Minecraft museum



Jack Probert, aged 8, has created a Minecraft version of the Black Country Living Museum
AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD set himself the task of recreating the entire Black Country Living Museum using popular video game Minecraft.

Young Jack Probert cannot get enough of the region's premier heritage attraction and it has become favourite place for days out with the family.

He also has a passion for the game Minecraft, a virtual landscape allowing players to build anything they can imagine by placing blocks.

In the days following Christmas, with the museum closed to visitors, Jack decided he would build his own virtual replica museum as his latest Minecraft project.

Jack's father, Alan, said: "It is fair to say we go to the museum quite a bit – we only live 100 yards away as the crow flies. We took Jack there quite a few times last

year and he just loves it. Everytime we say 'where do you want to go today' he says the museum.

"We had been building various things on Minecraft, but had been running out of ideas. I said 'what would you like to build?' and he said the Black Country Museum."

Jack said he chose to recreate the Tipton Road attraction using the game on his Xbox console as it is his favourite museum – and he particularly likes its cake shop.

Creating the museum from memory, they finished up with a remarkably accurate replica, and posted views of it on video website YouTube for anyone to view.

The whole thing took the pair around 16 hours across four days but Alan, aged 44, admits it is Jack who is in charge of the build. "I'm a labourer," said Alan. "It is definitely Jack who has the final say."

Burst water main causes traffic chaos

A BURST water main caused traffic chaos on a main road in the Black Country.

The A458 Park Road in Cradley was closed on Friday afternoon, forcing traffic and buses to be diverted.

The busy road, which connects Stourbridge and Halesowen, was shut between Colley Lane and Barrack Lane at around noon as emergency repairs were carried out to the water main and motorists were warned to expect delays.

Water could be seen flowing down the road three hours after the road was closed.

The closure saw traffic backing up in the area. The number 9 bus to Birmingham had to be diverted via Park Lane because of the leak.

It came as another burst water main caused problems near West Bromwich town centre. One lane of Trinity Way was closed near the junction with High Street at around 3pm.

Tale of tat man staged

A THEATRE group from the Black Country will be putting on a story about the iconic figure of the 'tat man'.

The Life and Times of the Tat Man will be performed on February 13 at 7.30pm by company Black Country Touring at the Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton.

Set in a scrapyard, the play looks at the characters he meets on his rounds with horse and cart.

Tickets are £10 and £8 concessions.

Park concert to mark milestone

BIRMINGHAM band Ocean Colour Scene are marking the 20th anniversary of their best known album Moseley Shoals with a special open air concert in the city this summer.

Moseley Shoals in Moseley Park is planned for Friday, July 15.

It will see the band performing songs from the album including the major hit Riverboat Song.

Tickets for the concert are sale from the www.moseleyfolk.co.uk website.

Ocean Colour Scene will be supported by Reverend and the Makers and The Sherlocks.

The band, whose members include Steve Cradock and Simon Fowler, formed in Moseley in 1989.

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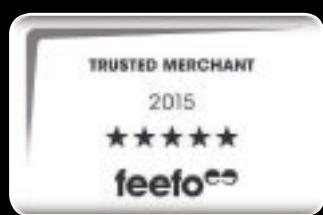
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£7.6m fund for project to boost manufacturing skills

THE Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has approved £7.6m funding for the flagship Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills, which will open for business in August 2017.

The funding has been allocated through the LEP's Growth Deal which is transforming the Black Country.

The Elite Centre will function as an

Behind the scenes tour at brewery

ALE fans can go behind the scenes at a landmark Black Country brewery when Holden's in Woodsetton offers hour-long tours on the first Saturday of each month in April, May and June.

The tours begin from the Holden's bottle shop off Sedgley Road and finish with a session in Holden's new tasting room.

There are up to a dozen places on each tour and they cost £12.50 per person.

Tours were started after the completion of the modernisation of the brewery during its centenary year of 2015. Tours can be booked by calling 01902 880051.

The brewery's famous beers include Black Country Bitter, Black Country Special Bitter, Black Country Mild, and Golden Glow.

The family's career in brewing began with Edwin Holden and his wife Lucy Blanche.

The brewery also has a popular line of its own bottled beer.

employer-led training facility for the Black Country, designed to improve productivity and growth in the high value manufacturing (HVM) sector.

The Black Country LEP has been instrumental in ensuring the project will deliver provision that doesn't currently exist in the Black Country.

The LEP has brought together partners from the HVM sector and education including the University of Wolverhampton, Dudley College, Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers.

Specialist

The partners are investing an additional £4.15m into the centre bringing the total project value to £11.75m.

The Elite Centre project will be led by the University of Wolverhampton. The Elite Centre will follow a 'hub and spoke' model with equipment and facilities installed across four sites in the Black Country, which will re-generate two brownfield sites. The hub will be the 800 sq m regeneration of the university's Springfield Brewery site in Wolverhampton.

The 'foundry and patternmaking spoke' will be located on a site adjacent to an existing foundry in Dudley Port.

Metal joining and advanced machining training will be covered by the installation of new equipment and the use of existing equipment at the recently opened Dudley Advance at Dudley College.

Pair chippie in to raise funds for girl's op



Georgia with mother Clare Gibbs with fundraisers Steve (left) and Archie Payton and Bunti Singh-Binning

A LITTLE girl with cerebral palsy is a step closer to a potentially life-changing operation thanks to help from fundraisers in the Black Country.

Born 11 weeks premature and weighing just 3lb 2oz, Georgie Gibbs was diagnosed with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy when a year old.

Now aged three, Georgie has to walk with splints attached to her legs or with a walking frame. She has daily exercises to relax her muscles.

Her family in Worcester is fundraising for an operation in America, which will cost around £65,000 and is aimed at helping Georgie walk unaided.

Coseley father and son Archie and Steve Payton, aged 76 and 54, decided to help after they met Georgie's family at a car boot sale.

Fryer

The Paytons, along with their local chippy Chipton Fryer & Cafe, on Bloomfield Road, Tipton, have raised more than £1,000.

The family is waiting to hear from officials at NHS England's Commissioning through Evaluation Programme, to find out if Georgie can have the operation in the UK.

Georgie's mother Clare, 41, said: "We'll find out in March if we can go ahead with having the operation in this country, but if not we have an April 18 confirmed date for America."

Archie and Steve said Georgie had 'stolen their hearts'. Archie added: "We'll move heaven and earth to help that little girl."

To help visit www.gofundme.com/help-georgie

Hospitals to investigate genetic links

A PIONEERING project is being launched at Black Country hospitals, including Russells Hall, to identify genetic links in families that suffer from cancers and other diseases.

The £250 million '100,000 Genomes Project' was introduced by the Government in 2012, in an attempt to sequence 100,000 genomes from around 70,000 people.

It aims to look at DNA to effectively diagnose and route out the cause of diseases in families, as well as personalise the treatment given to them. Diseases and cancers are strongly linked to changes in the genome, a person's DNA.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are leading the project and work will take place at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, as well as New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Charlotte Hitchcock, one of three genomic ambassadors for the project, said: "It is so important that we work to find out more about these diseases, to look at personalising medicine and create genetic medicine."

Ms Hitchcock is working closely with the lead clinician, Professor James Cotton, to implement the project and identify suitable participants.

Anyone chosen will have to give samples and allow the team access to their medical information.

Talk on Zulu war that inspired an epic movie

THE Anglo-Zulu War will be the subject of the next meeting of the Amblecote History Society on Wednesday, February 10.

Historian Max Keen will give a talk at 7.30pm in The Lehr Theatre at the Ruskin Centre, with tales from the battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, as depicted in the epic 1964 film Zulu. Admission is £2 for non-members. For details visit www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk

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Secrets of the Hoard at gallery

PEOPLE can find out more about the story of the Staffordshire Hoard in an interactive exhibition now on at Bilton Craft Gallery.

Treasure! Discovering the Staffordshire Hoard features high-quality replicas of objects in the Hoard, discovered near Walsall, showing how they might have looked when first crafted.

Visitors can also view a short film which includes an account of how it was found by metal detectorist Terry Herbert. Visitors can also try their hand at detecting metal, cleaning any artefact or don a costume to help bring Anglo-Saxon times to life.

Wolverhampton councillor John Reynolds, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for people to learn more about this amazing discovery and the history of the region. The Staffordshire Hoard is the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork ever found."

The exhibition is on display until March 12.

Dudley Group NHS Trust has a new boss



New Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust boss Jenni Ord

A NEW chairman has been appointed at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Jenni Ord, who was previously chairman of Health Education West Midlands, took over the role from David Badger, who stepped down on December 31.

She said: "I'm absolutely delighted to take on this new and exciting role at a trust where I believe great patient care and excellent services are delivered to the people of Dudley and the surrounding areas.

"The Trust has had an excellent year to date with fantastic performance in many areas and I look forward to ensuring this success continues and excels further in the future through working collaboratively and productively with our colleagues in health, social care and the voluntary sector."

A new non-executive director, Julian Atkins, has also been appointed. Mr Atkins has succeeded David Bland as non-executive director and will be part of the Council of Governors' Strategy Committee.

He joined the Trust after retiring from his post as head of human resources at Coventry Building Society.

College open to talks over Coseley School

DUDLEY College could be involved in the future of the Coseley School site if it was to close. College principal Lowell Williams has said the college would be 'pleased to enter discussions' over alternative uses for the site.

Parents have been infuriated by plans to shut the school, which has 528 pupils, and have launched a campaign and a petition to try to save it. A consultation has been launched but Dudley Council has revealed it could face a deficit of £1 million by August 2017 due to falling pupil numbers.

Mr Williams said the college had 'long-standing links' with Coseley and was considering what it could offer. He said: "The college has, informally, been asked to consider what support, if any, we could provide to the community if the school were to close. No detailed discussions have taken place. No plans, of any sort, have been drawn up. However, the college has clearly indicated its willingness to enter into such discussions."

JW Hunt trophy is found new permanent home at Molineux

A TROPHY that is part of the Black Country's football history will take pride of place at Molineux on a permanent basis.

The JW Hunt Cup, of which Sir Jack Hayward was a big supporter, is held annually with its final at Molineux.

The trophy, contested for by local non-league football clubs, is being inducted at Wolves' home in its 90th year of existence. The competition originated in 1925 with a meeting at the Molineux Hotel, some 50 from the stadium.

Alex Hamil MBE, president of the Cup, the Wolverhampton Referees Association and the Wolverhampton Sunday Junior League, is delighted that the coveted piece of silverware now has an appropriate home.

"All of the memorabilia from 1926 is being inducted into the Steve Bull Stand at the Molineux," said Mr Hamil.

"There will be medals, cups, badges and photos going back almost a century."

"Those that play in the final have had dads, uncles and grandads that have played in the Hunt Cup. It's a

big thing for them to play at Molineux."

A total of £8,000 will be donated to Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind, the competition's charity partner.

The cup, silver-plated and valued at £5,000 some years ago, is currently held by Tividale FC, who won last season's final in May.

Mr Hamil said: "Sir Jack said it was 'a part of Wolverhampton's history' and he was always interested in who had won. The late Jack Taylor, a former World Cup final referee, was our vice-president for 50 years."



Referee Phil Reade and JW Hunt Cup president Alex Hamil with the cup

Aldi staffing boost in store

DISCOUNT supermarket Aldi is to create almost 350 jobs at its shops across the West Midlands.

Jobs are being advertised at more than 30 shops in the region as the chain continues to thrive.

The company is on the lookout for 135 store assistants, 90 stock assistants, 35 deputy store managers and 57 assistant managers. Two store managers are wanted while 25 caretaker roles are also available.

Aldi's presence is continuing to grow in the Black Country, with its latest supermarket opening on Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury. An Aldi store is being built on the site of the King Arthur pub on the Birmingham New Road at Dudley.

Jobs are also being advertised in Brierley Hill, Great Barr, Halesowen, Wednesbury and at the new branch in Oldbury.

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Meeting to decide on the future of branch surgery

A PUBLIC meeting will be held later this month over the future of a GP practice in Lower Gornal

Residents are being invited to discuss the fate of Lower Gornal Medical Practice's Masefield Road surgery, which has been described as 'inefficient' and is being suggested for closure

The meeting is being hosted by NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group's Primary Care Commissioning Committee at Himley Road Methodist Church, Gornal Wood, on February 19 from 1pm.

Patients have handed in a 316-strong petition objecting to the proposed closure.

Cost

But there is concern that the surgery, which is about one mile from the GPs' main practice on Bull Street, is not cost effective.

Gornal ward Councillor Anne Millward said: "I'm aware they took over the Masefield Road branch a number of years ago and are now looking a consultation because it is not cost effective. I know a lot of people have said they use the branch. To open up the Masefield Road branch, they need a doctor from Bull Street, which affects the costs."

"It does serve the people of the Straits but they still have to go to Gornal to get their prescriptions. It makes sense to have four or five doctors in one place with pharmacists close by."

"It is up to practice to work out what is best for patients but people are not going to be worse off with it closing."

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee make collective decisions about the budget for Dudley GP services.

They are responsible for the planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and managing of the funds.

The committee will be discussing the proposal to close the Lower Gornal surgery at the upcoming meeting. Commissioning group chairman, Steve Wellings, said: "At the meeting the GP practice will present the case for closure to the committee."

By Jamie Brassington



MEP and Councillor Bill Etheridge, third from right, with residents and the problem trees

It's a sign of the times in village

A NEW signpost pointing to places of interest is set to be installed in Sedgley.

The signpost will point people in the direction of important places around the town with arrows.

It will be erected outside the Iceland supermarket in the town centre and will be around seven feet high.

Sedgley councillors Michael Evans and Tina Westwood have organised the sign to be erected after they were approached with the idea by residents.

It will point to the Ladies Walk Clinic, and to Dormston School, Queen Victoria School and the town's public toilets.

Councillor Evans said: "I think it is a good idea. The principle of it is to help people find their way around the town."

The date for completion is not known yet as the sign is still being made.

Church venue for ghost talk

A TALK about spooky goings-on in the Black Country will be held at a Sedgley church.

In Haunted Black Country, historian Ian Bott will reveal stories about ghostly sightings around the area.

It will take place at St Andrew's Church on Thursday, February 11, at 7.30pm.

The talk is a Sedgley Local History Society event, with admission free for members of the group and £1 for non-members.

Tickets in big demand for show

EXOTIC musical The King & I will be performed in Sedgley later this month after bumper ticket sales.

Based on the 1944 novel, Anna and the King of Siam by Margaret Landon, and made into a hit 1950s movie with Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr, the musical will be staged at The Mill Theatre, Dormston School, by the Phoenix Theatre Company.

Company chairman Richard Bourne, said: "In 2014 we brought the musical, Oliver to the stage and last year, following that huge success, we decided to stay with this wonderful theatre and bring South Pacific, which was even bigger. But The King & I has been quite incredible."

Tickets are £9 on Tuesday, February 23, with other performances £10 and £9 concessions. Email info@phoenixtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 897520.

School sports hall fund bid

RESIDENTS' concerns

have finally been heard by Dudley Council, which is now planning to tackle towering trees that loom over houses in a Gornal street.

Branches and sap falling on vehicles, and roots cracking paths, are some of the issues which have annoyed residents in Harlech Way.

UKIP Euro MP Bill Etheridge looked at the problem during a visit and said he was delighted that action will now be taken, after receiving email confirmation from Dudley Council's tree officer that the authority will now be taking steps to maintain the trees after an inspection.

He said: "The work will consist of selective removal of species and the poisoning of the stumps. The residents have been fighting for years for action and now, finally, the council say they will address the problem. This issue has been going on for far too long now."

A SECONDARY school has launched a bid for Government funding to enable it to build a new sports hall.

High Arcal School in Sedgley has applied for a grant from the Government's Condition Improvement Fund and now face a two-month wait to see if the cash will be granted.

Schools minister Edward Timpson confirmed an application had been received from High Arcal School with a decision due by the end of March.

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Give emotional music a Brakes

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE seventh studio album in ten years from Turin Brakes, *Lost Property*, finds the quartet producing sophisticated, emotional music with a hint of West Coast rock and a whole heap of honesty.

The distinctive voice of Olly Knights holds the attention. Highlights include Brighter Than The Dark, Jump Start and the gently stirring anthems Hope We Make It and Save You.

Catch Turin Brakes at Birmingham's Gee Club on March 8.

Curve Of The Earth is the most commercial album yet from London band **Mystery Jets**. It's already their most successful and deservedly so because after ten years and six albums they have crafted a lithe, sleek sound that melds hints of psychedelic rock with a radio-friendly pop sensibility.

Singer Blaine Harrison is at his best, even exercising a soulful falsetto on the hazy *Midnight's Mirror*.

A cosmic theme runs through many of the songs including the blissed-out Kinks-ish *Saturnine* and one of the other highlights, 1985, which starts as a delicate piano ballad and explodes with a fuzzy guitar riff that reaches for the stars.

Mystery Jets have a gig at the O2 Institute in Digbeth, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 18, with support from 17-year-old Declan McKenna.

Australian singer and songwriter **Sia** Furley, a former Jamiroquai backing singer and frontwoman for 90s outfit *Solo 7*, originally found success writing songs for such as Beyoncé, Rihanna and Christina Aguilera.



Seven studio albums in ten years and Turin Brakes are maturing nicely

Then in 2014 she had a massive hit with her own right with *Chandelier* and, while apparently shunning celebrity by hiding her face, got a lot more attention. Her sixth solo album *1000 Forms of Fear* was the breakthrough because she had cannily held back some of her best songs for herself.

But on her latest, *This Is Acting*, the 40-year-old's songs are all co-written with others and, frankly, no amount of power or vocal gymnastics can hide the fact that they sound like rejects. The opening salvo, *Bird Set Free* and *Alive*, may have been intended for Adele but I can see why she would knock back such fodder. We also get Sia sounding like a lightweight Lady Gaga on *Move Your Body*, Rihanna-like on *Cheap Thrills* or Beyoncé-lite on *Sweet Deceit*. It's production line pop/R&B, kind of faceless.

Singer Ian Astbury and riff master Billy Duffy sometimes conjure their



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- ✓ Services of a tour manager
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Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

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Explore a trio of great cities plus some stunning countryside against the striking background of the Fall's russet red and golden colours.

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One of the highlights will be the included tour and visit to Charlottesville where the spirit of earliest America is preserved in magnolia lined streets and some of the country's oldest dwellings.

Continue on into Virginia's fabled Blue Ridge mountains where breathtaking natural wonders can be explored in Shenandoah National Park.

A scenic journey leads to the maritime resort town of Newport, Rhode Island with its beautiful seafront mansions and famous harbour.



Theatre by coach

From £149⁹⁵



Price includes

- ✓ Return coach travel
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- ✓ Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.

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There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with Evening Meal.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £149⁹⁵, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option starts from £159⁹⁵ and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.



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DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: APRIL 14 AND 28



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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: NOVEMBER 12



London Welsh Festival of Male Voice Choirs

From £159

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London Hotel
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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: OCTOBER 15



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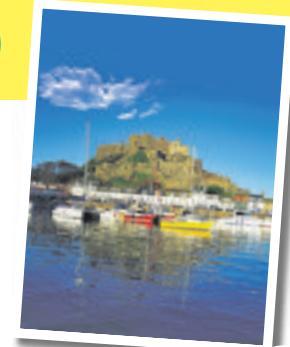
Themed breaks are also offered – see the brochure for details.

Price includes

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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Modern Hotels (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

DAYS: 4 TO 8 DEPARTS: MARCH TO DECEMBER



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Oh What a Night!

Jersey Boys comes to
Wolverhampton – Page 23

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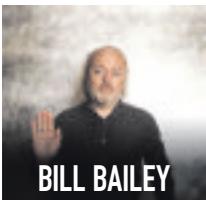


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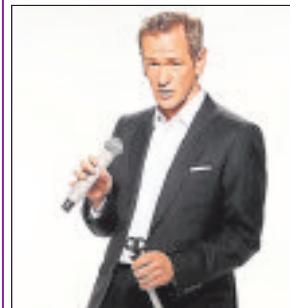
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Alexander Armstrong



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The much-loved presenter of Pointless, Alexander Armstrong, is returning to his roots as a classically trained musician and is set to delight in his first concert tour. Visit www.thh.co.uk

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Nik Turner's New Space Ritual

Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilton,
WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

SayWeCanFly

Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.

Call 0121 643 0428

Loyle Carner

Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.

Call 0844 870 0000

Montparnasse

Sat at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Telegram

Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.

Call 0844 870 0000

Bowling For Soup

Sat at 7pm, £20
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Style Councillors

Sat at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

The Crookes

Fri at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham,
B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Soulfly

Sun at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Game: Documentary 2 Tour

Mon at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, 1
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Temple Brothers: Everly
Brothers Tribute

Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Grouper

Fri at 9.30pm, Sat at
9.30pm,
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Spring King

Thu at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Of Mice And Men



Tonight - February 13
The Rep, B'ham

The acclaimed production of John Steinbeck's drama set during America's Great Depression, directed by Roxana Silbert, returns by popular demand, this time with a new cast. Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Joe Jackson

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The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.

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Augustana

Sat at 7pm,

O2 Academy Birmingham,

B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Jack Jones: A Celebration Of
100 Years Of Frank Sinatra

Fri at 7.30pm,

Birmingham Town Hall,

B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Danny Bryant

Wed at 7.30pm,

The Robin 2, Bilton,

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U2 2:U2 Tribute

Fri at 7.30pm,

The Robin 2, Bilton,

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Fri at 7pm - 11pm,

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FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Alexandra Jayne

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The Villagers

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The Jam House, Birmingham,

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Jarrod Dickenson

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The Glee Club, Birmingham,

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The Gruffalo's Child

Fri at 10.30am, 1.30pm,

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,

ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Of Mice And Men

Thu, Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm,

7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at

2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35

Birmingham Repertory Theatre,

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£9.50 - £35

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Birmingham Museum and Art

Gallery, B3 3DH.

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Freezin

Sat at 7.30pm,

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,

ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Gary Clarke Company: Coal

Thu at 8pm - 10pm, £8 - £12

DanceXchange, Birmingham,

B5 4TB. Call 441902566159

Jack And The Beanstalk

Fri at 11am, 3pm, Sat at

1pm,

New Alexandra Theatre,

Birmingham, B5 4DS.

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Prince Of Wales, Cannock

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Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Simply The Best Divas

Sun at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Solid Life Of Sugar Water

Fri at 8pm, Sat at 2.30pm , 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm,
7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
£18.50 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

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The Gruffalo's Child

Fri at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
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ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Of Mice And Men

Thu, Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm,
7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at
2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 01902 573320

The Crows Plucked Your Sinews

Tue - Thu at 8pm
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Jersey Boys

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7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
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Quantum Centre, Birmingham,
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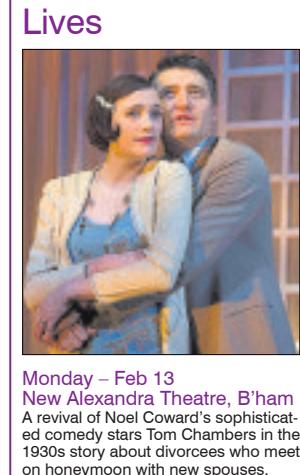
Juice Comedy

Fri at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Ken Dodd

Sun at 7pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
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Call 01543 578762

Private Lives



Tony Law: Frilemorphism

Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Gary Delaney

Sun at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

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Nicolas Lutz & Francesco Del Garda

Sat - Sun at 10pm - 6am,
The Rainbow, Birmingham,
B1 2LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Marcia Carr & E Double D

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Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 338 0000

Vertigo

Sat at 9pm,
The Victoria, Birmingham,
B1 1BN. Call 0121 633 9439

Keeping It Soulful

Fri - Sat at 9pm - 2am,
The Victoria, Birmingham,
B1 1BN. Call 0121 633 9439

The Jersey Boys are back in town

ONE of the West End's biggest hits of recent years, Jersey Boys, is at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, February 20.

Whilst still packing them into the Piccadilly Theatre in London, the touring production about the career of American pop group The Four Seasons, starring Matt Corrier as Frankie Valli, is a surefire crowd-pleaser.

Full of Four Seasons hits from the golden era of pop in the 1960s and 70s, it also pulls no punches in its story about how a bunch of New Jersey boys who seemed destined to become crooks and gangsters took the music world by storm, but at some considerable personal cost.

Worldwide

Sam Ferriday will play Bob Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths is Nick Massi and Stephen Webb is Tommy DeVito, all continuing in their roles from previous tour dates. Michael Pickering will join the cast to play the role of Frankie Valli at certain performances.

Also joining the touring cast will be Mark Heenehan as Gyp DeCarlo, Joel Elferink as Bob Crewe, Joe Maxwell as Norm Waxman and Samantha Hull as Francine.

Jersey Boys has been seen by more than 22 million people worldwide and is firmly established as one of London's most popular shows. It was also turned into a movie by actor/director Clint Eastwood.

The Four Seasons sold 100 million records worldwide, all before they turned 30. The show includes all the



Sam Ferriday, Stephen Webb, Matt Corner and Lewis Griffiths in Jersey Boys

major hits, including Sherry, Walk Like A Man, December, 1963 (Oh What a Night), Big Girls Don't Cry, My Eyes Adored You, Beggin', Let's Hang On (To What We've Got), Bye Bye Baby, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Working My Way Back To You, Rag Doll and Who Loves You.

Written by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, Jersey Boys has won Olivier and Tony awards for Best New Musical, among 57 major awards worldwide.

See www.grandtheatre.co.uk for further details or call the box office on 01902 429 212.

Ballet gets a revamp-ire

A GOTHIC romance from the choreographer who created the male dancers' Swan Lake and passionate ballet The Car Man is set to thrill audiences at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday.

Danced to the music of Tchaikovsky, Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty takes the familiar fairy story and twists it into a dazzling whirl of punk fairies and vampires. It goes from the opulent Edwardian era to modern day, delivered with irreverent humour and lots of style and vigour.

Created for his New Adventures company's 25th birthday in 2012, Sleeping Beauty was a hit at the Hippodrome a year later and this revival comes to Birmingham after a successful run at London Sadler's Wells.

Returning to the central role of Aurora is rising star Ashley Shaw, a role shared with Cordelia Braithwaite in her first principal role with New Adventures. Her hero Lee will once again be played by Bromsgrove-born dancer Chris Trenfield and Dominic North, who has appeared in more New Adventures productions than any other dancer. North was nominated as Outstanding Male Dancer at The National Dance Awards for his performance as Edward Scissorhands.

The twin roles of Dark Fairy Carabosse and her sinister son Caradoc will be shared by two of New Adventures' most charismatic performers, Adam Maskell and Tom Clark, the latter making his debut in a principal role.

For more information see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or for tickets call 0844 338 5000.



Dance highlights at Symphony Hall

THE Royal Ballet Sinfonia takes centre stage at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday in an evening celebrating classic balletic highlights.

Compered by Birmingham Royal Ballet's director David Bintley, the evening will include music and dance excerpts from some of the company's most famous productions, such as David Bintley's The Seasons, Frederick Ashton's The Dream, and Kenneth Macmillan's Romeo and Juliet. The latter is being performed at Birmingham Hippodrome later this month.

The evening will also include a performance by students from Birmingham's Elmhurst School for Dance. See www.thsh.co.uk

All-star jazz band in Art Blakey tribute

MARKING the passing of jazz great Art Blakey 25 years ago, saxophonist Jean Toussaint brings his Roots and Herbs combo to celebrate and explore the music of the Blue Note legend and his Jazz Messengers.

The gig at Wolverhampton University's Arena venue tomorrow night (Fri) will feature an all-star line-up of trombonist Dennis Rollins, pianist Julian Joseph, trumpeter Byron Wallen, Daniel Casimir on bass and drummer Shane Forbes. The latter is being performed at Birmingham Hippodrome later this month.

The evening will also include a performance by students from Birmingham's Elmhurst School for Dance. See www.thsh.co.uk

US rock invasion at city gig venues

GIG highlights include Nashville rockers The Cadillac Three at Digbeth's O2 Institute tonight (Thu), with metal super-group The Winery Dogs at the same venue tomorrow night.

Texan rockers Bowling For Soup play Brum's O2 Academy on Saturday, Arizona metal outfit Soufy are at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Sunday. Mid-80s drummer with punk legends The Ramones, Richie Ramone, has a gig at the Robin 2 in Bilton on Monday.

London rapper Loyle Carner plays the Hare And Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday, the same night fuzz rockers Ulrika Spacek are in the other room.

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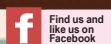
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CHOICE



John Inverdale

Live Six Nations Rugby Union

(BBC1, 4.30pm)

Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.50pm). John Inverdale is at Murrayfield to introduce coverage of the Calcutta Cup tie, as the rivals play their first match of this year's tournament. Scotland's record in this fixture in recent years is quite dismal, but this year they can enter the encounter with confidence following a much-improved showing at the 2015 World Cup and the undoubted progress made under coach Vern Cotter. England, in contrast, are starting over again following their early exit from that tournament, which resulted in Eddie Jones taking over as coach from Stuart Lancaster, and Jones has named an exciting, new-look squad captained by Dylan Hartley.

BBC1

- 6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Italy (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.50pm). **6.55** News.
- 7.05** Regional Programme.
- 7.15** The Voice UK. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson appraise the talents of more would-be stars as the spinning-chair singing contest continues. As the fifth set of "blind auditions" gets under way, Vangelis from London performs a rendition of the Cuban club hit Do You Really Want to Hurt Me. The coaches then assess the talents of Matt Martin, who sings Will.i.am's own Bang Bang, and 19-year-old Durham busker Chloe Castro. Plus, four-time Britain's Strongest Woman winner Gemma Magaguano takes to the stage.
- 8.30** The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. New series. Shane Richie returns with the dream prize game show, giving more couples a chance to pick a selection of perfect rewards to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. The contest begins as Phil and Sian from Liverpool attempt to win their chosen items. Plus, Ronan Keating performs in the studio, and joins Gaby Roslin to push the button in the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.
- 9.20** Casualty. Ethan has managed to put aside his dissatisfaction with NHS restrictions, and is back in full swing in the ED. The development comes as welcome news for Lily, and the pair join forces to help a girl with autism get the family support she desperately needs. However, just down to work, it appears his world is about to be shaken to its core.
- 10.00** News: Weather.
- 10.30** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update.
- 11.55** Race to Super Bowl 50.
- 12.25** Film: Man of the Year. (2006) **2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.15** Film: Tension at Table Rock. (1956) **7.45** Film: The Red Beret. (1953) **9.10** Animal Park. (R) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.05** Rick Stein's India. **1.45** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** Earth's Greatest Spectacles. (R)
- 6.25** Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family give up their 21st century technology and travel back in time to discover the radical transformation of our leisure time since 1950. Guided by presenter Giles Coren and social historian Polly Russell, the family's experience is underpinned by The Family Expenditure Survey, a government study which ran from the 1950s through to 1999. In the first episode, dad Rob finds out that he's expected to be handy with a tool kit, while mum Steph comes to terms with all the washing, cooking and cleaning expected of a 1950s housewife. Meanwhile, a 16-year-old Daisy learns ballroom dancing courtesy of Angela Rippon, and 12-year-old Seth discovers the great outdoors. (R)
- 7.25** King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy. Part two of Queen Mary's rise to the throne from a comparatively low position within the royal hierarchy, after being selected for the role by Queen Victoria. (R)
- 8.25** Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring has too much to drink during a weekend course with Captain Square, but still manages to save Jonesy's life. (R)
- 9.00** The Real Marigold Hotel. The group settle into life in their base in Jaipur, India, as Wayne Sleep and Bobby George have a cut-throat shave and a trip to the Taj Mahal brings Miriam Margolyes to tears. (R)
- 10.00** Live at the Apollo. Romesh Ranganathan competes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Jason Byrne and Stewart Francis. (R)
- 10.45** Insert Name Here. (R)
- 11.15** Film: Tim. (1979)
- 1.00** Film: My Afternoons with Marguerite. (2010) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled: Mr Potato. (R) **7.45** Scrambled: Mr Potato. (R) **7.50** Scrambled: Mr Potato. (R) **7.55** Scrambled: Mr Potato. (R) **8.10** Scrambled: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Scrambled: Nerd & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled: Jessie. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.25** Tipping Point. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)
- 6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather.
- 6.30** New You've Been Framed! More comical mishaps, including a building crashing a luxury sports car and a tree that manages to topple a motorcycle.
- 7.00** Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the second semi-final, challenging more returning contestants to face the infamous obstacle course once again.
- 8.00** Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness provides four more potential suitors for his 30 single ladies. This time, the men braving the "love lift" are James, a commodities trader from Leeds, Leamington Spa student Ben, Manchester-based circus performer Josh and Ian, a digital developer from Portsmouth. As ever, the would-be romances must present themselves to female panel in the hope that they'll keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy provides an update from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandas.
- 9.20** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.
- 10.20** ITV News: Weather.
- 10.40** Film: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni.
- 12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

- 8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Now That's What I Call Music! (R) **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 6.00** Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 6.30** Channel 4 News.
- 7.00** Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales go to Ireland and travel along the Shannon. They follow a canal linking the North to the South. Along the way, they try some traditional dancing and folk singing, visit historic sites including Crom Castle and Bloody Pass, and meet a genealogist with a fascinating story to tell. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00** Walking Through Time. Palaeontologist Dr Tori Herridge investigates the natural disaster that destroyed the massive chalk land-bridge that once connected Britain to continental Europe 450,000 years ago. Beginning her inquiries in Norfolk, she discovers what life was like before the ancient mega-flood, where she meets an amateur palaeontologist who uncovered the biggest mammoth skeleton ever found, and examines the 850,000-year-old footprints of an early human family prehistoric. She then travels to Kent and the white cliffs of Dover to detail how the megaflood happened, joining an "oceanographic" expedition seeking to document evidence of this cataclysm found on the bed of the English Channel.
- 9.00** Film: Prisoners. (2013) Premiere. Police question a man in relation to the disappearance of two children, but can find no evidence of wrongdoing. However, the distraught father of one of the missing youngsters is not convinced of his innocence, and kidnaps the suspect to force him into a confession. Thriller, starring Hugh Jackman.
- 12.00** Film: Friday the 13th. (2009) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Undercover Boss Canada. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.35** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Now That's What I Call Music! (R) **2.30** Siblings. (R) **4.00** Benefits: Can't Work, Won't Work. (R) **5.00** Benefits: 19 Kids and Counting the Cost. (R)
- 6.00** Celebs Go Benign. Fame to Clash. Documentary on the former Corrie star Bruce Jones (Les Battersby) and one-time Big Brother contestant Lisa Appleton, who have gone from signing autographs to signing on the dole. (R)
- 6.55** 5 News Weekend.
- 7.00** World War II in Colour. Examining Mussolini's decision to push Italy's forces into North Africa, and looking at the air and sea battles for control of the strategically vital Mediterranean island of Malta. (R)
- 8.00** America's Hidden Pyramid City: Ancient Pyramids. A team of experts use cutting-edge technology to examine the history of an ancient Native American civilization that built a metropolis in what is now Illinois. (R)
- 9.00** The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, which included Burnley v Hull City and Middlesbrough v Blackburn Rovers.
- 10.00** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables.
- 10.30** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The detectives are forced to rely on an officer from another district when a rape victim refuses to talk to anyone but him, while introductions to the new ADA go badly. (R)
- 11.25** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. An ex-financier is questioned about the murder of his girlfriend – but the focus of the investigation gradually shifts to the CEO of a dating website. (R)
- 12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Big Brother: The Good, the Bad and the Outrageous. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.05** Don't Tell the Bride **8.05** Top Gear Vietnam Special **9.20** Film: Meet the Parents (2000) **11.05** Russell Howard's Good News **11.30** Family Guy **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News **1.30** Siblings **2.00** The World Will Be Televised **3.00** Far Right and Proud: Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia **4.00** Close BBC Four
- 7.00** How Earth Made Us **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** The Young Monty Python **10.45** Amélie's Nightingale: A String of Naked Ladies **11.45** Je t'aime: The Story of French Song with Petula Clark **12.45** Shirley Bassey at the BBC **1.45** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.10** Sounds of the Eighties **3.35** Close
- ITV2**
- 11.10** Ninja Warrior UK **12.10** Scorpion **1.05** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Film: Mr Beans Holiday (2007) **4.00** Film: Beethoven (1992) **5.50** Celebrity Catchphrase **5.50** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.20** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.50** Film: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2008) **1.10** Beowulf: Return to the Sheldlands **2.10** Reality Bites **2.45** Teleshopping **4.45** Film: No Name on the Bullet (1959) **5.10** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **6.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Buenos Aires ePrix. **8.30** War of the Worlds **9.00** Film: Escape from New York (1981) **11.05** Film: The Return (2006) **12.50** Film: Red Heat (1982) **2.50** ITV4 **3.00** Teleshopping **4.45** Film: The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Bridesmaids (2011) **11.30** The Inbetweeners **3.15** The IT Crowd **4.05** 2 Broke Girls **4.30** Rules of Engagement **5.15** Revenge **6.45** Film: 11.00 California Man (1992) **1.00** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **2.40** Chocolate (2000) **5.00** City of Ember (2008) **6.45** Shallow Hal (2001) **9.00** Salt (2010) **10.55** ATM (2012)

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CHOICE



Patrick Kielty

Patrick Kielty's Mulholland Drive (BBC2, 10pm)

Patrick Kielty's journey to find the truth about William Mulholland, who was responsible for building Los Angeles' water infrastructure and providing a water supply that allowed the city to grow into one of the largest in the world. Patrick's family all worked for the water company in Northern Ireland and upon discovering that the man who gave LA its water was from Belfast, decided to find out why he isn't globally recognised.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 8.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 The Big Questions.** 11.00 **Regional Programme.** 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3-15 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.35 Nature's Miracle Orphans. 6.35 BBC News. 6.50 **Regional Programme.** 7.00 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore Tyne and Wear, visiting a lighthouse currently being restored and a country park on the site of an old coal mine that is now home to a variety of wildlife and cattle. (R) 7.30 Countryfile: looking for glass smoothed by the tide in Seaford. Olympic boxer Nicola Adams reveals her favourite country-side destination. Adam Henson meets some of Suffolk's country breeds, and Tom Heap investigates Britain's flood defences. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Julienne has an eye-opening experience on a maternity ward, and a young man from Poplar is accepted into university – but an unexpected development threatens his dreams. **9.00 War and Peace.** Chaos descends on Moscow as the French army attacks the city. The Rostovs realise they are in danger and flee for their lives. Natasha finds herself with an unexpected travelling companion, and sees a last chance to make amends. Sonya is asked by the countess to make a sacrifice for her family. Traumatised by his experiences on the battlefield, Pierre resolves to stay behind and fight the invaders, and as he struggles through a hard winter, the scenes of horror and kindness he witnesses change his outlook on life. Last in the series. **10.20 BBC News.** **10.40 Regional Programme.** **10.50 Match of the Day.** Jason Mohammad reviews the day's Premier League action. **11.55 Film:** In the Valley of Elah. (2007) Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon. **1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.** 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.50 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.35 The Secret History of the British Garden. **8.35 Countryfile.** (R) 9.30 Saturday Kitchen. **10.00 Best Before.** (R) 11.45 Back to the Best Before. (R) 12.15 MOT24 Extra. **1.00 Film:** We Dive at Dawn. (1943) Second World War adventure, starring John Mills. **2.35 Film:** None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. **4.15 Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best?** (R) 5.15 Flit It! (R) **6.15 Ski Sunday.** Including action from the men's World Cup downhill competition in Jeongseon, South Korea, which is set to be one of the best venues at the 2018 Winter Olympics. **7.00 Six Nations Rugby Union.** John Inverdale presents action from the opening round of the 2016 championship, featuring Scotland v England at Murrayfield, Ireland v Wales at the Aviva Stadium and France v Italy at the Stade de France. All of the nations were playing their first matches since last year's World Cup, with France and England aiming to impress under new coaches after disappointing in that tournament. With analysis by Keith Wood, Martin Williams and Jeremy Guscott. **8.00 Greeks with Simon Reeve.** Part two of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises. **9.00 James May's Cars of the People.** James looks into some of the planned new directions in motoring that never caught on, driving an amphibious car and an electric scooter, and taking a ride in a driverless car. Last in the series. **10.00 Patrick Kielty's Mulholland Drive.** A journey to find the truth about William Mulholland, who was responsible for building Los Angeles' water infrastructure and providing a water supply that allowed the city to grow. (R) **10.50 American Football: Super Bowl 50.** Denver Broncos v Carolina Panthers (Kick-off 11.30pm). Live coverage of the 50th staging of the showpiece event. **3.30 Sign Zone:** Countryfile. (R) 4.30 Holby City. (R) 5.30 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.05 Sooty.** (R) **7.15 Super 4.** **7.30 Scrambled:** Mr Bear. (R) **7.45 Scrambled:** Mr Bear. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. **8.30 Scrambled:** Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05 Scrambled:** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 FIA Formula E Championship.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** USA. **11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.20 ITV News:** Weather. **12.30 Off Their Rockers.** (R) **1.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** (R) **2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15 Catchphrase.** (R) **6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15 ITV News:** Weather. **6.30 Planet's Cat Tales.** Featuring a human cannonball, a high-wire motorcycle display, a whip-cracking cowboy, a death-defying acrobat and a performer who slices flying fruit. Narrated by Warwick Davis. **7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands.** Slean's intended bride arrives in Herot, but his mind is elsewhere as he is torn between his loyalty to his mother and his own lust for power. **8.00 Vera.** The detective investigates the discovery of a young man's body in an area notorious for illicit teenage gatherings, the corpse wrapped in plastic sheeting and having received a blow to the head. Vera follows the trail to a funfair where the victim used to work and a church where he sought refuge, having recently been made homeless. She delves into his family history to discover why he was on the streets when his parents lived nearby, while forensic evidence implicates the son of the vicar, who has a criminal past. **10.00 ITV News:** Weather. **10.15 Rookies.** Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee police officers from the Lincolnshire force, charting their progress as they venture out onto the streets. (R) **11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 11th round of fixtures. **12.10 Jackpot247.** **3.00 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.40 The King of Queens. (R) **7.05 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 George Clinton.** **12.45 Space.** (R) **1.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **2.30 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Comedy, starring Zachary Levi. **4.15 The Simpsons.** (R) **4.45 The Simpsons.** (R) **5.15 Channel 4 News.** **5.35 Film:** X-Men. (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **7.30 The Jump.** Davina McCall presents the second round of the celebrity winter sports challenge. The 11 remaining contestants compete in a Snow Cross event, with the losers of each race having to face a super-sized ski jump to determine which of them will be eliminated from the contest. **9.00 Deutschland 83.** Moritz recuperates after the transplant, and decides to remain at home. However, both Annett and Schwenepenstette are adamant that he must return to his assignment in the West. Alex Edel takes General Jackson hostage and forces him to denounce military plans in Western Europe. In German. **10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Sean Lock and Isy Suttie compete against Jon Richardson and Richard Osman in the words-and-numbers quiz, while Alex Horne and the Horne Section help out in Dictionary Corner. (R) **11.05 Film:** Alien 3. (1992) Officer Ripley is marooned on an all-male prison planet, where she again faces her extraterrestrial arch-enemy. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver. **1.05 Embarrassing Bodies:** Back to the Clinic. The doctors invite back some of their most embarrassing patients, including a woman who visited because of excess hair on her face and body. (R) **2.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.15 Phil Spencer:** Secret Agent. The property expert helps homeowners in Leeds, including a man struggling to sell his three-bedroom semi, and a woman whose dated bungalow is not attracting buyers. (R) **5.10 Deal or No Deal.** Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, and could double their winnings with box 23 – if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R) **11.15 Film:** The Green Hornet. (2011) A boy media-mogul becomes a masked crime-fighter, with the help of his kung fu expert chauffeur. Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen, Jay Chou and Cameron Diaz.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bob the Builder.** (R) **6.45 Ticket To Ride.** **6.55 Zack and Quack.** (R) **7.00 Robbie and Custard.** **7.25 The 45 Make Way for Nancy.** (R) **7.25 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.40 Little Princess.** (R) **7.50 Pip Ahoy!** **8.05 Plaza and the Monster Machines.** (R) **8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.50 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) **9.05 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.30 LazyTown.** (R) **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30 The Championship:** Football League Tonight. **11.30 Goal Rush:** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.55 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.55 Film:** My Favorite Martian. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Christopher Lloyd. **3.40 Film:** Three Men and a Little Lady. (1990) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Siedlecki. **5.35 News Weekend.** **5.40 Film:** Little Nicky. (2000) Comedy fantasy, starring Adam Sandler. **7.25 Film:** Zoolander. (2001) Dumb male Derek Zoolander is stunned to find his career going downhill thanks to the arrival of an equally vacuous rival – but fails to realise he is merely a pawn in a dangerous game of international espionage and world domination. Comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Milla Jovovich, Christine Taylor and David Duchovny. Edited for sexual content and language. **9.00 Film:** The Internship. (2013) Première. Two old-fashioned salesmen find their careers derailed by changes in technology. They nevertheless manage to get internships at an internet company, but face a battle to come to terms with modern business methods, while competing against younger rivals. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson and Rose Byrne.

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth.** **7.10 Great TV Mistakes 7.** **7.40 The Voice UK 9.00 Film:** Meet the Fockers (2004) **10.50 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad!** **12.15 Family Guy 12.30 Cuckoo 13.00 Close.** **BBC Four** **7.00 Montalbano and Me:** Andrea Camilleri. **7.50 Britain's Wild Places 8.00 Russia's Lost Princesses 9.00 Film:** Palio (2015) **10.30 History of the Eagles 12.30 futanarum: The Truth Uncovered 1.30 Rock 'n' Roll America 2.30 Sounds of the Eighties 2.55 totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 3.55 Close. **ITV2** **11.35 Take Me Out 12.55 Take Me Out – The Gossip 2.00 Grease: Live 4.55 Minion Madness 5.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.00 Film:** Legend (2010) **7.00 9.00 Film:** The Wedding (2008) **11.55 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **2.00 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen.** **ITV3** **11.25 Film:** Columbo: It's All in the Game (1991) **1.30 The Return of Sherlock Holmes 2.45 The Castle of Sherlock Holmes 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Midsummer Murders 8.00 Banning Round Britain with John Sergeant 9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks 10.00 Mrs Biggs 11.30 Film: Hamlet (1990) **2.05 Film:** Till Death Us Do Part (1969) **3.45 Heartbeat 5.25 Judge Judy.** **ITV4** **1.35 Counting Cars 2.25 The Classic Car Show 3.30 Film:** No Name on the Bullet (1959) **5.10 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film:** Nighthawks (1981) **11.05 Film:** Apocalypso Now (1979) **2.05 Ax Men 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping.** **E4** **2.30 Film:** School of Rock (2003) **4.45 Rude(s) Tube Shorts 5.00 The Goldbergs 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Inbetweeners 1.15 The IT Crowd 2.15 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.00 Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23. **Film4** **11.00 Destination Gobi (1953) 1.00 Step Up (2006) 3.15 Bugsy Malone (1976) 5.05 First Daughter (2004) 7.15 Airplanet! (1980) 9.00 Patriot Games (1992) 11.15 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995)********

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Michael Clayton, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

Mulder and Scully are reopening their files

It could be a case for Mulder and Scully – whatever happened to the top-rated sci-fi series and its characters when it went off air for 14 years? Thankfully, we're about to find out because *The X-Files* is back.

Even the most die-hard of fans (and let's face it, there were plenty of those around during the show's original run, from 1993 to 2002) never thought they'd get to see their heroes in action again, and have been almost beside themselves with glee at the prospect since the reboot was announced.

Not that bringing back much-loved cult series is a rarity these days. Doctor Who made a triumphant return, nine years after he last featured in the lacklustre 1996 film, while *Twin Peaks* is set to appear on our screens in 2017 following a 26-year hiatus.

Both David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson have agreed to reprise their roles as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully – it just wouldn't have been the same without them.

Both stars have enjoyed success in various projects following the end of

the original series, with Anderson particularly familiar to UK viewers thanks to her appearance on TV in the likes of *The Fall*, *Great Expectations*, *The Crimson Petal and the White*, and the recent adaptation of *War and Peace*.

They will be joined by various other original run alumni, including Mitch Pileggi as the FBI's assistance director Walter Skinner, and William B. Davis, who plays the enigmatic Smoking Man.

What surprised many is that Channel 5 outbid other broadcasters to grab the right to show the six-part run. "Securing the UK premiere of the highly anticipated return of *The X-Files* is a major coup for the channel and will create one of the channel's events of 2016," said Ben Frears, director of programmes at Channel 5. "This acquisition underlines our ambition to deliver a diverse slate of brilliant, must-see programming on Channel 5."

So far, feedback has been very good. Okay, so some critics have been unkind, but fans – and they are the ones who are important here –

have given it an overwhelming thumbs-up.

What's more, the first episode features a recap that will be invaluable to casual viewers, or those who didn't watch the original run or either of its spin-off movies. After that, it's the monster-of-the-week approach that takes centre stage as Mulder and Scully get to grips with more intrigue and conspiracy.

When we meet them again, the duo have been living separate lives for years – she at a medical practice, him ploughing his own furrow. They are brought back together by a cable TV host who wants them to help him expose a sinister organisation he believes has the power to control the American public.

Channel 5 is also broadcasting *The X-Files: Reopened* immediately before the first edition, enabling fans to see behind-the-scenes footage of Duchovny and Anderson in action with the show's creator, Chris Carter.

Will the programme's return whet our appetite for more? Probably – the question is, will it ever be sated?

PICK OF THE WEEK



Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny star in *The X-Files*, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST



Happy Valley, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

discover it is where the bodies of Happy Jack and Red are buried. The townsfolk are outraged at the thought of their old foreman's body being moved and rally round his widow Hatty, but she is won over by the promise of a decent headstone for his new grave, so Johnny takes charge of the exhumation, hoping he can prevent Red's body being discovered. Meanwhile, Isabella tells Charles she wants to be his wife in every sense, but when housemaid Epiphany lets something slip about her past, no one is prepared for the consequences.

Reeling from the bad publicity after the assault on the store, Harry finds himself forced to admit the true state of his financial affairs when D'Ancona piles on more pressure, and later finds himself embroiled in a costly spat with media magnate Lord Wynnstay. Mr Grove and Miss Mardle plan their very special forthcoming event, and Meryl enlists Tilly's help for a very important task – fuelling Miss Ellis' ire in the process. Mae and Victor grow closer, leaving Jimmy to become increasingly jealous. Drama, starring Jeremy Piven, Katherine Kelly, Amanda Abbington and Tom Goodman-Hill.

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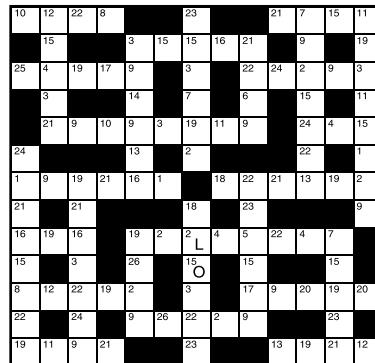
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BRAIN GYM No.363

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
O	C	Z	T	V	N	P	U	D	Y	E	G	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	Q	I	L	A	F	K	W	J	B	R	S	H

Quiz

- In which country is the state of Uttar Pradesh?
- Who directed the film Jules et Jim?
- What sort of animal is a tarpon?
- What nationality is the avant-garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen?
- Which physicist discovered alpha, beta and gamma rays?
- What is the capital of Haiti?
- Which king constructed the Hanging Gardens of Babylon?
- In which century did the poet John Milton live?
- What is the symbol used for the element magnesium?
- In which year did the actor Steve McQueen die?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Thermos; 2 The Marshall Plan; 3

Tennessee; 4 Actress; 5 The helmet;

6 Mace; 7 Telescope; 8 Miles Davis;

9 Kurt Waldheim; 10 1856.

Niner: INCURABLE

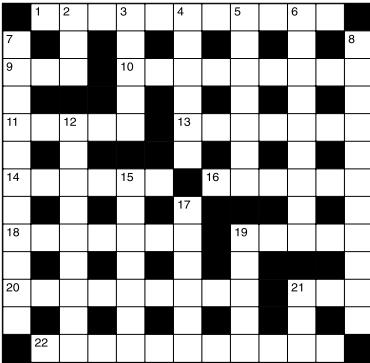
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- They show you what you can get with money (4-7)
- She's always cut short (3)
- The local newspaper made him redundant (4-5)
- Silas is out to be of use to a ropemaker (5)
- One object in rent (7)
- Their function is to secure quiet in class (6)
- Government upsets the emigre (6)
- Number return with piece of writing for broadcasting? (7)
- Horse stepped very softly out (5)
- Scramble at the pig's food (9)
- A tie in an archery contest? (3)
- Get straight an argument with privileges (3,2,6)
1. Weed-killer (3)
2. Floral plate design (5)
3. In part of a hospital - mental, perhaps (6)
4. Refuse to go through all the cases? (7)
5. One result of juicy pickings (5,4)
6. A deep malady (3-8)
7. Put on paper, Chinese style? (7,4)
8. Hardly the speed at which a tramp will walk! (5,4)
9. He foresees a hold-up over the reform (7)
10. He might make a streak on the ice (6)
11. A weapon attached to a rifle, perhaps (5)
12. Part - of the bridle? (3)
13. Silas is out to be of use to a ropemaker (5)
14. Regular (6)
15. He foresees a hold-up over the reform (7)
16. Fasten (6)
17. Utter ruin (9)
18. Personal (7)
19. Broaden (5)
20. Get rid of (9)
21. Unity (3)
22. Enterprise (11)



Quick Clues:

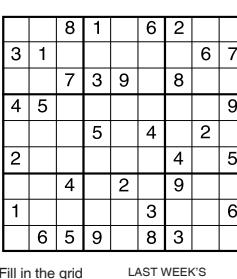
Across

- Golden mean (5,6)
- Help (3)
- Wand (3)
- Punitive (5)
- Grass-cutters (6)
- Put (7)
- Advantage (5,4)
- Sister's grandson (5-6)
- Sceptic (11)
- Personal (7)
- Broaden (5)
- Get rid of (9)
- Unity (3)
- Enterprise (11)

Down

- Help (3)
- Punitive (5)
- Put (7)
- Advantage (5,4)
- Sister's grandson (5-6)
- Sceptic (11)
- Personal (7)
- Broaden (5)
- Get rid of (9)
- Unity (3)
- Enterprise (11)

Sudoku



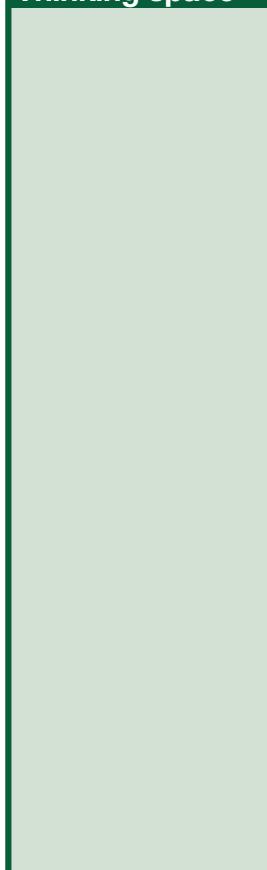
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	8	2	3	6	7	9
6	3	9	4	7	1	8	5	2
2	7	8	9	5	4	1	3	6
1	9	6	7	8	4	2	3	5
8	5	3	6	1	9	7	2	4
7	2	4	5	9	6	8	3	1
9	6	1	2	4	5	3	8	7
5	8	4	3	9	7	1	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Back; 3 Threates; 9 Admet; 10 Quote; 11 Discountable; 13 Strive; 15 Union; 17 Counteragent; 20 Olive; 21 Accused; 22 Eighteen; 23 Play. Down: 1 Brandish; 2 Cross; 4 Hiding; 5 Acquaintance; 6 Rootles; 7 Slew; 8 Inconvenient; 12 United; 14 Roofing; 16 Menace; 18 Ease; 19 Bore. OTHER - Across: 1 Pick; 3 Sums; 6 Nine; 7 Nine; 11 In the interim; 13 Impale; 15 Speech; 17 Congratulate; 20 Ashen; 21 Founded; 22 Fathery; 23 Reed. Down: 1 Prolific; 2 Cadet; 4 Oblong; 5 Contemptuous; 6 Respite; 7 Rule; 8 Intelligence; 12 Shielded; 14 Prophet; 16 Lawful; 18 Addle; 19 Waif.

Thinking space



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Beef it up – linguine al brasato



Restaurant in a canalside setting



Light and space – The interior of Fiume is bright and breezy



Tempting tower – pollo saltimbocca

Forget new flavour of Pringles this is something to really get excited about

I GET excited very easily. I get excited when a new flavour of Pringles is unveiled

But when I found out that there is an Italian restaurant within walking distance of my flat – a long walk, admittedly – I got very excited. Taxi, take me to Fiume!

Fiume is in a lovely little spot. A canalside restaurant in Compton spread over two floors. It's clean, bright, in a location that cries out for summer lunches in the sun, and staffed by an attentive team who make a fuss of you as soon as you arrive.

Your meal is soundtracked by a mixture of opera and mambo, set at a volume that does not intrude but instead actually rather soothes. So all we need now is some decent nosh and it is, as the saying goes, all gravy. Not literally all gravy, that would be a bit boring.

I must confess that I had decided that I

Pete Cashmore tucks in

liked Fiume even before I arrived. I absolutely adore Italian grub at any time, I'd live on it if I could, and when you have two of my favourite things – seafood and calzone pizzas – combined and thrown into the mix, then really, you're onto a winner.

Portions

Even better, they do something that I love in my Italians – they offer starter-sized portions of pasta to get the ball rolling, meaning you can, in theory, do pasta and pizza together and still come away not feeling like the Goodyear airship.

So that is what I resolved to do, go for the diddy-sized (although there was nothing especially diddy about it) spaghetti carbonara, and then that calzone. Elsewhere in the

table, my fellow diners, codenames 'Mum'

and 'Dad', went for crespella di funghi, Italian crepe stuffed with mushrooms, followed by pollo saltimbocca, chicken wrapped in parma ham with mash, and calamari followed by linguine with a duck ragu, respectively.

I'm not one for competitive eating, but I like to think that I 'won' this meal. It really was a rip-snorter. Spaghetti carbonara is a dish that can often go wrong – it can be too creamy, it can be too eggy, it can contain ropey ham, all factors which can ruin what should be an indulgent dish.

No such worries at Fiume. Chunky pancetta, tart parmesan, just the right amount of creaminess and egginess.

The calzone did exactly what I expected of it. I believe I spotted prawn, squid and octopus in there. It was terrific fun to wrestle with. Elsewhere on the table my father pronounced himself thrilled with the calamari,

which came in a monster portion of great big rubbery rings and looked great, but seemed merely satisfied with his pasta – I didn't grill him on it excessively because he took about half an hour to polish it off and to ask him to talk would have exacerbated this process.

Delightful

Mother, meanwhile, seemed more than happy with both starter and main. A couple of coffees for the parents while I polished off another bottle of beer, and an entirely delightful eat-up was in the bag for £74, which is not too shabby.

Fiume really have got everything right – the attractive location, the attention levels of the staff, which is warm and just the right amount of fussy, and a menu that offers a wide choice.

I'd go back there in a heartbeat.

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commercial feature

Celebrate chef's award with spicy special offer



Award-winning head chef Abdul Ahad receiving his award alongside staff at Shenapur restaurant

Abdul Ahad is more used to creating and serving up plates of mouthwatering dishes for diners as head chef of the Shenapur restaurant in Hagley, but recently Abdul received a very special plate of his own.

Abdul won Regional Chef Of The Year in the Curry Life Chef Awards 2015.

Abdul's food is celebrated and loved by all who are lucky enough to experience it.

Specialising in traditional sub con-

tinental cuisine, predominantly from Bangladesh, Abdul follows a simple formula of high quality, masterfully spiced food, cooked fresh to order.

The Shenapur, which has a contemporary yet informal interior, has been serving up the finest Indian Cuisine in Hagley for more than 19 years and has become one of the most popular destinations in the West Midlands for Indian food lovers but Abdul's skills and creativity have raised the bar still further since his appointment as head chef earlier in the year.

Abdul has devoted 35 years to his craft, building on his knowledge and self-taught creativity.

He particularly loves cooking with fish and Shenapur's menu reflects this, offering monkfish, salmon, sea bass and lobster which is bought fresh and cooked Bangladeshi style.

Other signature dishes include meltlingly tender lamb shank, tandoori chicken norotoba cooked with minced meat herbs and spices and tellapia bhuna, a traditional Bengal fish dish.

Shenapur's proprietor Angur Ali said: "Abdul is very keen to demonstrate his unique culinary skills, flexibility and passion for Indian cooking and he and his team are happy to style any dish to suit your personal taste."

"So if you are a regular diner with us, or are considering visiting for the first time to experience unforgettable food served up in an informal and friendly atmosphere, there has never been a better time to join us with a 10 per cent reduction against the cost of your meal on production of our advertisement."

"We hope to see you soon."



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With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with a stained glass port hole window and original Minton tiled flooring and stairs off and under-stairs storage, a WC, a large dining room with a period-style fireplace and stripped wooden flooring, a breakfast room/study/family room with laminate-style flooring, a kitchen with a comprehensive range of units, an oven with a six-ring gas hob and extractor, integrated fridge and a door to the garden, a superb lounge with French doors to the rear garden and a feature fireplace. There is a master bedroom, bedroom two with wardrobes and wooden flooring, bedroom three and a re-fitted bathroom.

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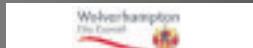
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Current Gross Income: £5,400 pa
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*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots

**For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website



NETHERTON, Hockley Lane

This EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION of SEVEN LUXURY 'NEW BUILD' 3 & 4 BEDROOM HOMES by respected HORGAN HOMES is known as 'Yew Tree Rise'. This DETACHED HOME has been ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED to offer SPACIOUS MODERN FAMILY LIVING ACCOMMODATION. EPC:

£245,000



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Exciting development of 11 plots under construction by the Woodbourne Group of gas centrally heated & double glazed detached BUNGALOWS/dormer bungalows within walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £264,500, and First Phase scheduled for early April. SAP: T.B.A. Further details with Agents Sedgley Office.

PRICES FROM £218,500



PENNETT, Fernhurst Drive

A STUNNING MODERN THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME upon this highly sought after development, offering a very generous and beautifully improved layout, plus a good size driveway, GARAGE and a pleasant patio/ lawned garden. EPC TBA

No upward chain

£189,950



SEDGLEY, Northway

TREMENDOUS VALUE. Superb, gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached presented in exemplary order upon favoured development comprising; entrance hallway, walk in store (with potential) 21'4" through living/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, vestibule with further store, three generous bedrooms (one with fitted units), shower room (former bathroom). Garage, garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY.

New price

WAS £149,950, NOW £145,950



KINGSWINFORD, Sandhurst Road

A BEAUTIFULLY ALTERED & IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED HOME upon highly sought after 'High Acres', offering an impressively spacious and attractively appointed/presented layout with TWO SUPERB DOUBLE BEDROOMS, plus driveway, GARAGE and a landscaped garden. EPC C

£144,950



COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes; entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, shower room. Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.

Offers in the region of £143,000



NETHERTON, Halesowen Road

This TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Spacious Hall, TWO LOVELY RECEPTION ROOMS, WELL FITTED Kitchen, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Large Block Paved Driveway, Garage and Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens. EPC: C

£129,950



QUARRY BANK, White City Road

This SPACIOUS & EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME incorporates a UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED & GAS CENTRALLY HEATED LAYOUT & comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Extended Kitchen, Guests W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & Large Garden. EPC: E

£114,950



SEDGLEY, Sandyfields Road

A most conveniently situated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR FLAT within reasonable distance of so many day to day amenities, bus route, country park etc. Requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom. Allocated garden, GARAGE - short lease. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £105,000



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

SCANDANAVIAN STYLE. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home constructed to first quality specification & in exemplary order. Designed to match adjacent property with minimal energy/running costs the accommodation includes; hall, cloakroom, lounge, 19ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen, garden room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden, GARAGE (rear), additional parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £185,950



WALL HEATH, Brook Street

OVERLOOKING FIELDS. This SEMI-DETACHED TRADITIONAL HOUSE is outwardly deceptive of its size, having: Hall, Lounge 13'x13', Dining room 13'x12', feature 16' Kitchen, Utility, Elegant Bathroom, Two large Bedrooms plus Hobby/loft. Forecourt Parking and Gardens with SUNNY DISTANT VIEWS. EPC: TBA

£174,950



COSELEY, The Paddock

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached offering potential having delightful lengthy/sheltered rear garden, and situated in favoured district overlooking cricket pitch briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, spacious hall, lounge, dining kitchen, three generous bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, Garage, lengthy garden. E.P.C. T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000



LOWER GORNAL, Elan Close

EXTENDED. Freehold, part gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached within walking distance of 'Five ways'. Offering potential the accommodation provides; hall, cloakroom, storage cupboards, lounge, magnificent refitted 'hub of the house' kitchen with granite work surfaces/ island unit/integrated appliances, large laundry room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden, solar panel hot water. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £135,000



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED RESIDENCE. situated in this well sought after area of Lower Gornal with OPEN ASPECT VIEWS to rear. This family home, ideal for first-time buyers benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden and drive to front. Viewing essential to fully appreciate this fantastic property. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



LOWER GORNAL, Redstone Way

STYLISH, COMPARATIVELY SPACIOUS. gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "starter home" in quiet cul-de-sac in favoured/convenient district. comprising: 17'3" (max.) lounge, breakfast kitchen with various integrated appliances, rear vestibule, fitted cloakroom. TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite. Sheltered rear garden landscaped to ensure low maintenance & allocated parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £129,950



DUDLEY, Heath Green, Old Park Farm

This modern intermediate townhouse property is situated in the popular Greens estate. An ideal FIRST TIME BUYER opportunity, it benefits from entrance hallway, modern fitted kitchen, living room, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, centrally heated and double glazed, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £94,950



DUDLEY, New Rowley Road

THIS SPACIOUS, PERIOD STYLE, TWO BEDROOM, MID TERRACE HOME briefly comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Two Double First Floor Bedrooms, Large Four Piece Bathroom, Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! Attention BUY-TO-LET INVESTORS. EPC D

£75,950



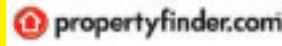
DUDLEY, Land adj to 78 Old Park Road

Planning consent secured to construct a three storey three bedroom detached dwelling of approximately 144 square metres (excluding garage) in well established residential neighbourhood. Planning application T12/1063 Viewing arrangements and further details with agents Sedgley Office.

ASKING PRICE: £50,000



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NEW

A semi detached three bed house on the popular Russells Hall Estate with off road parking. Petrol double garage, central heating. The entrance hall has access to the front door and doors off to lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen with access to rear. The first floor landing has an airing cupboard with access to the bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. Outside the property there is a paved area before the drive, access to the side and rear of the property, where there is a brick outbuilding, patio area and tarmac lawn area. Freehold, no onward chain, available to view now. EPC C £125,000



NEW

A very well presented modern first floor two bed apartment with stunning views over the canal. A short drive to the M62 and M6 junctions and walking distance of Netherton. Having double glazing and electric heating. The first floor landing has an airing cupboard with access to the bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Modern fitted kitchen, separate utility room, separate WC, bathroom with shower, off road parking. View to rear (see pictures). Leasehold, no upward chain, available to view now. EPC C £104,950



NEW

A traditional, mid terraced house within walking distance of the park and shops. Double glazed, centrally heated, accommodation over three floors - kitchen, utility and bathroom/WC, basement, two reception rooms - ground floor, two double bedrooms - first floor. Patio and garden with separate access to rear. Available fully furnished, EPC D - no upward chain. £87,000



NEW

A beautifully presented, extended, modernised semi-detached family home in this popular location. Having off road parking to the front for two vehicles. With entrance hall with stairs to first floor and rear. Spacious through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen and utility. The kitchen/diner is a double room to the front, and two further bedrooms to the rear. With fitted kitchen, open plan lounge/diner, bathroom and parking. EPC - TBC £142,500



NEW

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY • A modern ground floor apartment offered as a 50% share. This well presented two bedroom home must be viewed. With fitted kitchen, open plan lounge/diner, bathroom and parking. EPC - TBC £45,000



NEW

A very well presented and spacious semi-detached home in a popular area of Dudley. Having an entrance porch, open plan lounge, dining room with fireplace and a fitted kitchen with appliances. To the first floor are two double bedrooms, family bathroom, stairs to attic currently used as a bedroom. Outside is a driveway leading to a carport and detached garage, also having lawned gardens to the front and rear. No upward chain. EPC D £117,500



NEW
PRICE

A very well presented and well planned corner-turner style property having a spacious entrance hall, guest WC, lounge, KITCHEN DINER with fitted appliances, first floor landing, master bedroom with ENSUITE, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and a garage. VIEWING IS A MUST! EPC - B £139,995



NEW
PRICE

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer for sale a versatile and EXTENDED spacious home. Having an entrance porch, guest WC, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, spacious conservatory, MULT-USE room/ garage/ workshop, master bedroom with walk in wardrobe and ENSUITE, three further bedrooms, family bathroom. SECURE off road parking and front and rear gardens. The property comes with security cameras and SOLAR PANELS. EPC - D £174,995



NEW
PRICE

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to purchase an unique traditional style DETACHED property with YARD and GARAGE/ WORKSHOP. Having TWO bedrooms, two reception rooms and an EXTENDED kitchen leading onto a YARD giving possibilities for business use (subject to planning). Located close to the MERRY HILL Shopping Centre, this property, previously used as a craft merchants and having NO UPWARD CHAIN, is well worth viewing! EPC - F £179,950



LET

A modern, semi-detached family home on the popular Purlin Wharf canal-side development. Having a drive and garden to the front. Double glazed with central heating. Downstairs wc. Large lounge, modern dining kitchen with integral oven/hob and free standing fridge-freezer, with patio doors leading to the rear garden. Ensuite shower WC off the master bedroom. There is also a rear bathroom/WC. To the rear there is a patio area, lawn and access to the front of the property. EPC TBC, unfurnished. £675 PCM & Fees



TO LET

A modern two bedroom third floor apartment on popular Priory Park development. Lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms, bathroom. Double glazing, allocated parking and secure entry. Available to view now. No DSS, no pets. EPC - B £535 PCM & Fees



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NEW

A modern, two bed second floor apartment with lounge, fitted kitchen, two good-sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, no pets. No Dss. Available to let from 27th Feb 2016. EPC on order £455 PCM & Fees



NEW
PRICE

A character property in the popular Gornal Wood - a two bed semi-detached house with double glazing and central heating, having a good-sized lounge with feature fireplace, a fitted kitchen/diner, upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms - one single and one double. House bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Off road parking outside (not allocated), side alley leading to patio/yard to the rear with shed. Unfurnished, no pets, no DSS. Available now EPC E £500 PCM & Fees



LET

A modern three bedroom semi-detached house located near to Dudley town centre, with lounge, fitted kitchen & dining area. There are two double bedrooms and a further single with bathroom located on the first floor. Single garage with driveway and rear garden. No DSS and no pets. Available now to view. EPC - C £595 PCM & Fees



TO LET

Double room to rent. Suit a 25+ working female, shared lounge, kitchen and bathroom. Cat lover ideal. Landlord on site. Room located within a three bedroom mid terraced house. The rent includes all bills - gas, water, tv licence, council tax and broadband. EPC - F £280 PCM & Fees



TO LET

Modern two bedroom apartment within walking distance of to Dudley town. Open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include integrated oven and hob. Has bathroom with one double and one single bedroom. The property is unfurnished. No Dss. No pets. EPC - C £485 PCM & Fees



NEW

A three bed semi-detached house in a cul-de-sac location, having double glazing and electric storage heating. With a lounge, good-sized dining kitchen, three bedrooms (two with built-in wardrobes) and a house bathroom with shower over the bath. Garden to rear, with off road parking to the front, garage to the rear (not suitable for vehicles). No DSS. Small pets. Unfurnished EPC - D £535 PCM & Fees



NEW

A modern, one bedroom apartment with modern electric heating (very efficient) and double glazing. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Excellent location for commuting, good transport links, shops nearby. Off road parking, unfurnished, no DSS, no pets. EPC C £375 PCM & Fees



TO LET

Modern one Bedroom 2nd floor apartment. Has open plan lounge and kitchen. Bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Modern fitted kitchen, includes integrated oven and hob a. Gas central heating. May consider DSS with good references and working guarantor. EPC B £370 PCM & Fees



NEW

Located in the popular Oakham area. This WELL PRESENTED three bedroom semi detached house is a MUST VIEW. Briefly comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen and family bathroom to the first floor. Outside the property has a good sized rear garden, driveway to the front and a garage. No DSS or pets. EPC - D £575 PCM & Fees

Car is good for tax bills!

By Ian Donaldson

BUYING most of BMW's range involved a healthy dose of heart as well as head – they are mostly cars aimed at people who love driving.

Well, here's one that might make you phone your accountant before signing on the dotted line. He might then tell you to choose a different model.

The big X5 is now available with an electric motor to assist the petrol engine and save a bit of fuel in the right circumstances. It will cost. But it might not, and you would then be better off buying the diesel, which costs only £215 more, goes faster and might actually save you money on longer journeys.

But here's where the accountant comes in; because the new X5 puts out such tiny

amounts of tailpipe emissions in the official tests it qualifies for zero road tax and – more important for all the business people who fancy one – there's a £2,711 saving in benefit in kind each year.

Annoyingly, the emissions are a tiny bit too high (by a measly 2g/km) for the car to dodge the London congestion charge and the same minute tailpipe excess means the car does not qualify for a government plug-in car grant, which would lop £5,000 off the price now and £2,500 off from March, when the rules tighten.

This hybrid X5 costs £52,105 for the SE or £56,705 for the M Sport version on test.

Topping a dead battery to full takes less than four hours from a domestic plug, about an hour less if you have a BMW Wallbox installed. The car can then be ordered to mix petrol and current in the most economical way, save all its battery for later or combine the two power sources for maximum urge.

Of which there is plenty. And so back to the heart; where you find a car that looks precisely like the diesel equivalent with some modestly different badging and a flap in a front wing where you plug in the charging lead.

Even lumbered with the extra weight of a biggish battery (which robs the boot of a little room under the floor and means you can't have this X5 with a third row of seats) this is a car that flies when you prod both power sources into action – less than six seconds to 60 is brisk in anyone's book.

Driven like that, you'll exhaust the battery in minutes. With a little restraint you can drive up to 40mph-ish on flat roads on electrical power alone and get somewhere like the 19 miles a full charge can offer.

BMW reckons 80 per cent of journeys with an X5 are less than 19 miles (station



For all the business people who fancy one – there's a £2,711 saving in benefit-in-kind each year

car park and back, anyone?) and used like that your travelling expenses will be negligible.

With commendable honesty, BMW then adds that a 40 mile daily round trip should return up to 47mpg, but stray into longer distance territory (125 miles and up) and economy tumbles to 27mpg.

That's more economical than the petrol X5 with similar performance, says its maker; perhaps missing the point that the 3.0 litre diesel would do better. Which is why buyers go for it, of course. In petrol-focused China and the States the argument

for the X5 hybrid makes more compelling sense.

It remains a decent drive in any case; a car built seemingly from a piece of solid steel, so tough does it feel. It's big, but you soon learn not to fear multi-storey car park ramps and Waitrose parking bays; sitting tall helps here.

Standard spec is generous, with full leather trim, xenon headlights, metallic paint, fine sat nav, big alloys, cruise, powered tailgate and parking sensors front and rear. As ever, there are options galore to tempt you to spend a bit more.



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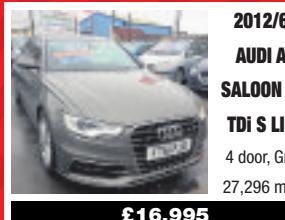
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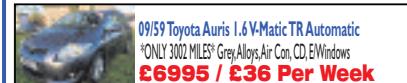
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DRIVETIME



New venue for major show

The Mobility Roadshow incorporating Get Going Live! says its 2016 event will be held from May 26 to 28 at the Silverstone Circuit, Northamptonshire.

Organised by charity Mobility Choice, the free-to-attend show is Europe's leading consumer-focussed event for people of any age living with restricted mobility. Since 1983, this international show has delivered opportunity and choice to disabled and older people with mobility needs. Get Going Live! is a test-drive feature that focuses on young and novice disabled drivers and opens up a new world of driving opportunities for future generations.

The 2016 event will take place for the first time at Silverstone, home to

The British Grand Prix and at the heart of international motor sport. A remarkable experience awaits in a location full of British motor racing heritage: UK and international visitors will have the unique opportunity to test drive adapted and wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVS) around the iconic Silverstone circuit. In addition there will be the chance to see and compare a wide range of products for independent living such as wheelchairs, scooters, trikes, hoists, and ramps as well as access to information and expert advice.

The Mobility Roadshow will be an unmissable 'hands on' opportunity for drivers with disabilities, passengers who use wheelchairs, and solutions for older non-disabled drivers to continue to drive safely for longer. The show also provides opportunities for young

and novice drivers with disabilities who are keen to explore all available options for accessible motoring.

Ann Frye, chair of Mobility Choice, said: "We are delighted to be holding the Mobility Roadshow at Silverstone for the first time. In response to visitor feedback, we have chosen this magnificent venue with space to expand the range and choice of mobility products from around the world as well as giving visitors the opportunity to drive on the famous race circuit.

"Maintaining the show's focus on independent mobility for everyone, we are working again with NFE Group to deliver an event that we believe will enable anyone with mobility difficulties to find solutions to meet their individual needs."

www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk

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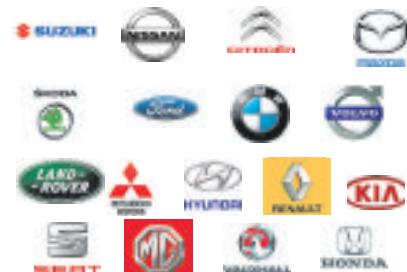
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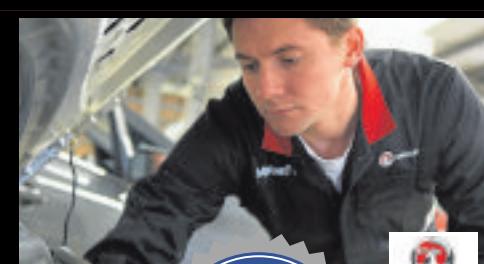
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Smooth cat is stylish, sleek and fuel-efficient



By John Griffiths

It's a challenge to design a 'clean sheet' new car that is better than its predecessor but still screams out the heritage and core values of its makers.

But that is the new Jaguar XF – sleek and sporty style that couldn't really be anything else but a 'Big Cat' with more than a hint of its flagship big brother, the XJ.

Yet it isn't all about show or brand identity, as under the skin it is entirely new, packed with the latest technology to make it a daunting prospect for its premium brand German rivals. The new XF has grace and pace: coupe looks but with a bigger, more luxurious interior with the latest in high tech toys to keep you entertained and in touch.

It is based around the latest Wolverhampton-built Ingenium turbo diesel engine which produces plenty of power while significantly cutting fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, potentially saving its owners thousands of pounds in VED and benefit-in-kind tax.

With new, slippier aerodynamics and aluminium architecture replacing the old steel construction – the XF has shed some 190kgs – the figures are impressive. With the lowest powered (163PS) engine and manual gearbox they are more than 70mpg and a mere 104g/km – much more supermini territory than executive express. Even the 180PS option with eight speed auto transmission the figures are an average 65.7mpg and a lowly 114g/km. Those compare with 129g/km for the old car, so the tax advantages are obvious.

With competitive insurance ratings and new measures to cut the cost of repairs, the XF now goes to the top of its class when it comes to benefit in kind tax, residual values and whole life costs.

I love design when form and function come together in perfect harmony. While the new XF has much more sporting lines, that's true of its behaviour, too.

Weight

The basis of its improved dynamics start with its lighter weight of its aluminium structure, which is also 25 per cent stiffer so that steering and suspension work to the optimum.

Plus it's slightly shorter – not by much, admittedly – but that's combined with a longer wheelbase and significantly shorter front overhang. While that helps to improve handling, and enhancing the XF's coupe-like good looks, it also allowed the engineers to build a car with more generous levels of head, knee and legroom for rear seat passengers.

At the same time, they have endowed the braking system with more pedal feel for the driver, and upgraded the suspension system.

The range starts at £32,300 for the 163PS manual, while the extra power of the 180PS engine starts costs £500 extra, model for model.

For those who want even more go there are two V6 range toppers – a 300PS turbo diesel and a 380PS petrol, both of which only come with the ZF eight-speed auto gearbox.

The test car was the 180PS automatic in top specification Portfolio trim, which comes in at £39,050.

From the moment you sit down in the big soft leather seats it feels every inch a Jaguar. You're surrounded by soft, stitched leather and wood veneers, chrome switch gear and a simplified cockpit layout thanks to central colour touchscreen and digital instrument display.

It pulls away smoothly and in virtual silence, but once you reach the open road you get some measure of the XF's pace. It's 180 horses isn't massively powerful by executive car standards, but you have to factor in its light weight to get some measure of how the car performs.

The Portfolio spec car is packed with the latest safety equipment including stability and traction control, hill start assist, autonomous emergency braking, trailer stability control, rear parking sensors, brake pad wear warning and multiple airbags. Climate control, electric windows and a surround sound stereo system add to the standard package.

It also has Jaguar's latest 'InControl' touch screen navigation system with WiFi. Imagine, for example, you're heading for an appointment in a strange city – the system will give you a choice of potential parking spots in the vicinity and, once parked, switches seamlessly to your smartphone to guide you to your final destination.

The Jaguar's digital instruments are extremely clear and easy to read in all lights, but I confess I find myself increasingly seduced by the 'head up' display in cars. Jaguar charges an extra £1,220 for its laser-operated 'HUD' but for me it's money well spent. Having your actual speed, the current speed limit and block diagrams of the next junction displayed in clear symbols in front of you is a really boost for safety and convenience when navigating unfamiliar territory.

The new XF is arguably one of the most sleek and stylish of the executive saloons. With the major changes under the skin, it's also now one of the most cost-efficient of the breed, too.



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Adventure with the advancing Avensis

By Sharon Walters

Car manufacturers make a fairly big song and dance of claiming how they take notice of what buyers of their cars want when they upgrade. They canvass brand loyalty customers and trumpet their findings. And generally they do incorporate major concerns which they see as an improvement to their products – obviously taking into account cost.

Toyota go one further and not only talk to buyers who have crossed the threshold of their showrooms but also drivers of other cars as well. The Japanese firm did this with the latest Avensis and appear to have listened well and used the information to make what was a good product even better.

And what is good news for the UK is the car is made at Toyota's long-established plant near Derby – as have more than 1,711 Avensis across four generations that have appeared on European roads since the original was launched in late 1997. Plus the car was designed and engineered at Toyota's European development centre, Japanese by name but not by nature.

This latest version saw a new style, new engines and some pretty innovative technology. Toyota has always been known for quality, durability and reliability and that has been continued and further improved upon.

Avensis has appealed to both private and the fleet/business market but the latter has always taken the lion's share. Both revealed they wanted prestige, luxury and elegance and they have certainly got it. Saloon and tourer were targeted with five main areas of improvement:

- Styling
- Sensory quality and comfort
- Safety
- Equipment and value for money
- Driving pleasure and running costs

Avensis has two diesel engines at the heart of its range: a 1.6 unit and a 2.0-litre. I drove the 2.0 litre Tourer which, if you are a business user, produces 124g/km giving an initial 22 per cent BiK rate. You also get more than 68mpg in an extra urban driving cycle according to claimed figures by Toyota. I didn't quite achieve that. But on one of my regular visits north of the border I did get fairly close. Not to be sniffed at in a 408 mile journey combining motorways (and hold-ups), city and rural driving. It positively soaked up the motorway driving with little cabin noise intrusion and a smooth ride, as indeed it was on the winding country roads.

Quality

Inside the cabin is well laid out and high quality with very comfortable seats and an excellent smart driver's information display and media system. I know some people sneer at this but there are also plenty of cubbyholes and decent sized glovebox – I despair at some of the totally useless 'slots' left in some cars. Better to do away with the glovebox altogether. And joy of joys, a space saver tyre!

Active and Excel grades mark the entry point and top of the range with Business Edition and Business Edition Plus versions at the heart of the line-up. Across the board, specifications secure high levels of safety, comfort and convenience, not least with the standard provision of Toyota Safety Sense integrated active safety features on all models.

Key features of the Active grade include Pre-Crash Safety system with Autonomous Emergency Braking, cruise control, air conditioning, six-speaker CD/radio audio, Bluetooth, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, LED rear and daytime running lights and power windows.

Business Edition adds to this strong foundation with the Toyota Touch 2 with Go touchscreen multimedia and navigation system, digital/DAB audio package with eight-inch display, reversing camera, front fog lights, rain-sensing wipers, dusk-sensing headlights, automatic air conditioning, 17-inch alloy wheels and part-Alcantara seat upholstery. The active safety features extend to Automatic High Beam, Lane Departure Warning and Road Sign Assist.

Business Edition Plus delivers further premium features including leather upholstery with Alcantara inserts, front fog lights with a cornering function, LED headlamps, smart entry and rear privacy glass. The LED daytime running lights gain light guides, creating a distinctive lighting signature.

At the top of the range, Excel grade adopts Toyota Touch 2 with Go Plus, adding more sophisticated navigation functions and access to additional connected services. The specification also embraces a 10-speaker audio system, full leather seat upholstery, electrically adjustable front seats with heaters and adaptive headlights that adjust automatically to improve illumination through bends and turns. The Excel Touring Sports gains a panoramic roof. And that was lovely for letting plenty of light in and making the cabin appear even more spacious.

This Avensis has advanced well.



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Sportage sprints up desirability rankings



By James Parker

In the space of just a few years, Kia's Sportage appears to have gone from inconspicuous to indispensable. This fourth generation car now packs in more equipment, tides the styling, sharpens the dynamics a tad but keeps the same value, practicality and great after-sales care. The motto here seems to be 'If it broke, give it a better stereo'.

This fourth generation model carries over many of the mechanicals of its predecessor, but adds some new technology too.

The petrol range is made up of a normally aspirated 1.6-litre GDI 132PS unit and a much pokier T-GDI turbo 177PS powerplant. Go for the T-GDI variant and you get the brand's latest seven-speed DCT dual-clutch automatic gearbox. Most Sportage buyers though, will probably want a diesel. For buyers wanting to fuel from the black pump, the range starts with a 115PS 1.7-litre CRDi variant. Above that, there's a 2.0-litre CRDi option, offered with a choice of 136PS or 184PS power outputs.

Whatever engine you decide upon, you'll find that refinement levels have been much improved over the third generation model.

As before, buyers get a choice of both front and four wheel drive models, with changes to steering and suspension promising a slightly more involving on-tarmac experience.

If that's a priority for you, then you might want to look at one of the GT Line variants, which are supposed to feature sharper, more athletic handling and deliver a slightly firmer ride.

Impressing

The front end of this MK4 model Sportage is the biggest change over the outgoing model, thanks to smarter headlamps that sit just above a bolder, lower, wider version of Kia's hallmark 'tiger-nose' grille. These lights are now positioned higher, sweeping back along the outer edges of the sharply-detailed bonnet.

The result is a more imposing appearance and a more stable-looking stance, despite this model retaining the same 1,855mm width as its predecessor. It's 40mm longer though - and more aerodynamic.

At the rear, this fourth generation Sportage features more horizontal forms and clearly defined feature lines, with smooth bodywork on the tailgate, emphasising the car's width and giving this compact SUV a more stable appearance.

Inside, there's a completely new interior, with higher quality materials and a central console that cascades downwards and is tilted 10 degrees towards the driver.

The 30mm increase in this model's wheelbase means that the cabin is more spacious too, with greater headroom front and rear.

At the back, the seats recline further than before for greater long distance comfort. Out back, bootspace is up from the previous model's 465-litre total to 503-litres here.

Have the updates and quality upgrades made to this fourth generation Kia Sportage been sufficient to keep buyers loyal?

We suspect that there's more than enough here to keep existing customers loyal.

Ultimately, it's a car you sit in and wonder just how a Toyota RAV4 can be worth around £5,000 more. That says it all really.

TESTED

Kia Sportage

Prices: £17,465-£29,510 on-the-road

Insurance: TBC

CO2 emissions: 135-189g/km [approx]

Performance: [2.0 CRDi 4x4 manual] 0-60mph 10.9s / Max Speed 112mph [est]

Fuel consumption: [2.0 CRDi 4x4 manual] (Combined) 49.6 mpg [est]

Standard safety features: Twin front side and curtain airbags, ESC, trailer stability, tyre pressure warning, ABS

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Kia range fuel consumption: Urban 19.3-54.3 mpg, Extra-Urban 31.0-70.6 mpg, Combined 26.2-62.8 mpg, CO₂ 117-258 g/km.

MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Picture for illustration only.

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1
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3
Home & Services

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6

Property

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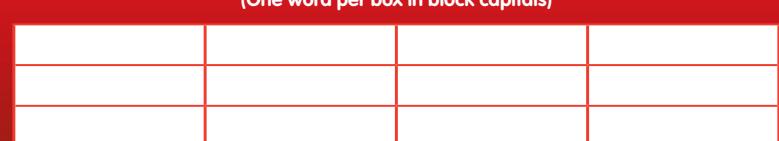
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Classified Ads

Norton take step towards taking title once more

NORTON Social A took another significant step towards retaining the Stourbridge Snooker League Premier Division championship with a 3-2 win on the tables of one of their pursuers, the 2014 champions Hotshots SC A.

Brandhall Labour held on to second place defeating Hotshots' B team 3-2.

Baggeridge Social celebrated their first win, 3-2 at home to Moor Pool & Snooker A. Kingswinford Cons B beat Moor Pool & Snooker B 5-0. Third-placed Kingswinford Cons A fought back from 2-0 down at Norton Social B.

Wombourne lost the first two frames at Stourbridge Inst B but staged a recovery. Moor Pool & Snooker B also went 2-0 down at home to the Institute B team, but fought back to win 3-2.

Kinver A lost 3-2 to Amblecote Institute B. Stourbridge Institute A took all five frames at Kinver C.

Stourbridge Old Edwardians stretched their division two lead to eight points, with a 4-1 win at home to Kingswinford Cons D but Amblecote Royal British Legion were surprisingly beaten 3-2 by Stourbridge Institute D.

Stourbridge Inst C edged out Amblecote Inst C, while Kingswinford Snooker Centre recorded a 4-1 at Amblecote Inst D.

Results **1st Division** Baggeridge Social 3 Moor Pool & Snooker A 2; Brandhall Labour 3 Hotshots SC B 2; Hotshots SC A 2 Norton Social A 3

First Division Norton Social B 3 Kingswinford Cons A 2; Kinver Const A 2 Amblecote Inst B; Kingswinford Cons B 3 Moor Pool & Snooker B; Stourbridge Inst B Wombourne 3; Kinver Const C 0 Stourbridge Inst A 5; Moor Pool & Snooker B 3 Stourbridge Inst B 2

Second Division Amblecote Inst D 1 Kingswinford SC 4; Amblecote RBL B 2 Stourbridge Inst D 0; Stourbridge Inst C 2 Kingswinford Cons D 1; Kingswinford Cons C 4 Kinver Const D 1; Stourbridge Inst C 3 Amblecote Inst G 2

Yozza edged out in latest darts contest

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes won his group but then lost at the last 128 stage at the BDO Dutch Open.

Martin 'Wolfe' Adams retained the men's crown at the Bonte Wever in Assen. 'Yozza' had kept hold of the Romanian Classic overseas the previous weekend but couldn't make it back-to-back ranking titles.

The World Championship semi-finalist, was edged out in the last leg 3-2 by Mats Giles.

The 29-year-old was placed into Group 128, with over 2,000 male throwers competing. Hughes, who received a bye past his first game, recorded three whitewashes in four group clashes, including a 3-0 win over Justin Massy in the group final.

He also shut out Michael Hollander and Per Hendriksen 3-0, either side of a 3-1 win over Ferry Beijleveld.

Lennox to make up for lost time



Halesowen boxer Lennox Clarke

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke is eager to make up for lost time when he battles for a belt at Walsall Town Hall this month.

The hard-hitting super middleweight tops the bill when professional boxing returns to the venue on Friday February 19.

Clarke was due to take on Midlands middleweight champion Craig Cunningham last October, but pulled out through injury. Brummie southpaw Cunningham has now moved on with the title. Instead,

Clarke will attempt to seize the British Challenge crown against three-time Southern area title challenger Richard Horton, aged 34.

The 'Undefeated' show is promoted by Black Country Boxing and ring legend Ricky Hatton, who will lead Wednesday's Sam Evans, Pauly Upton, Reuben Arrowsmith and big heavyweight Nathan Gordon into battle.

A Black Country heavyweight features in West Bromwich's Matt Gordon. Also in action is Manny Zaber,

from Old Hill. Meanwhile, Christian Amendola hit a steep learning curve as his England Youth Championship hopes evaporated.

He was pulled out by the referee before the first round was over of his bout at the Wallace Centre, Stoke-on-Trent.

Amendola, from Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, swapped leather at 60kg in the area semi-final against Jamie Edwards, from Triumph in Coventry, but came off second best.

Greg is Lynch-pin to widen golf's appeal

PGA pro Greg Lynch hopes that coaching youngsters across the Black Country proves a sure-fire way to make the sport of golf cool.

Lynch, who hails from Birmingham but began his training at Halesowen Golf Club before moving on to coach at Warley Woods, set up his GL Golfing Academy almost seven years ago and has since coached thousands across the region.

Generally one of the sports that struggles with an elitist image, golf has faced an uphill struggle in recent times but things are brightening up according to Lynch.

He said: "A big part of what I'm trying to do is get the sport away from elitism. Golf needs to be more accessible, especially for the youngsters.

"What we're doing at Warley Woods at the moment is great. It's a nine hole pay and play.

"There is no dress code. You can show up in your jeans and trainers rather than the old style of colours and trousers, where you needed a membership. It can definitely put youngsters off.

Several

"With Rory McIlroy you have a good young sportsman putting across a message about accessibility." Lynch, who played several pro amateur events and turned professional in 2008, soon found himself turning his hand to coaching a year later. "We're coaching around 800 students every year through the academy," he added.

"My vision was to grow the game and its participation levels. Everything spiralled from there, really. I work with around 25-30 schools in the area including 15 in Sandwell. All of the schools have taken really well to it. Brandhall Primary School in Oldbury is one of the schools I've been working with for a while and I try and encourage the kids to get involved at Warley Woods.

"With the primary schools I tend to make it more fun-based activities. They learn the basics – the hold and the stance – and if they enjoy it they come to the club and learn more about techniques. Back when I learned it was very 'old school'. We would line up and it was almost like an army procedure, but research has shown the kids want it more fun and relaxed."

Springfield Primary School, in Rowley Regis, and Ormiston Forge Academy, in Cradley Heath,



Pro golfer Greg Lynch, during a golf workshop at Oakham Primary, Tividale, helping youngsters get into the sport

are two more schools looking to acquire Lynch's unique training services, while Bristnall Hall in Oldbury is another secondary school that proves children in their teenage years are also keen to get involved.

He added: "The Lyng Primary School (West Bromwich) has really tried to push it into its curriculum. It links with maths and helps with things like life skills and honesty. We're really trying to promote things like teamwork, respect and honesty."

Lynch received a huge set of Tri-Golf equipment from the Golf Foundation that helps the coaching function. He also receives financial help from other organisations, such as the Sandwell Play Scheme on behalf of Sandwell Council.

Any schools, colleges or those of any age looking to get in the swing of things can contact Lynch on enquiries@golfacademy.com or visit <http://golfacademy.com/> – for several different tuition courses.

Morris eager to get back in the saddle for Heathens

CRADLEY fans favourite Ashley Morris is counting down the days to his first meeting back with the club.

Morris, who won every honour possible with the Heathens during his four seasons with them, is set for an emotional return to the green, red and white.

And he admits he will be on guard to avoid any complacency after a successful spell with King's Lynn in the top flight last season.

Morris said: "Obviously I haven't ridden in the National League for a couple of years, but I know I'm still going to have to be at my best – and I can't wait to get started back with Cradley."

"I obviously haven't got a team place in the Premier League but I'm viewing the situation positively and I'm delighted to be back with Cradley."

"I'm excited for the season to start now and I'm just looking to make the most of it. If I'm going out and winning races it can only help me and build my confidence no matter what level it's at, so that's what I'll be trying to do."

"The last season I had with Cradley was great, so if I can get back to that form and win races on a regular basis again to help us win meetings that will be brilliant."

Tickets are running out as the new-look Heathens prepare to meet with supporters for the first time ahead of the new season.

Only 30 tickets remain for their Season Launch Night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday, March 21.

They cost £5, from the club shop in Cradley Heath Market or on the club's official website, cradleyheathens.co, via PayPal.

Hosts extend unbeaten run to 15 games

Hereford Lads 2 Team Dudley 1

HEREFORD Lads Club extended their league unbeaten run to 15

matches with a 2-1 win over Team Dudley at the County Ground.

The promotion hopefuls took the lead with seven minutes gone, as Matt Evans rose, unmarked and highest from six yards out to meet a corner and give TD the start they dreamed.

A very difficult start for the students didn't get much better. TD couldn't muster much up on either front, although Alex Pinches did put the ball in the net but was flagged, correctly, offside.

Team Dudley did get better as the half went on, but it took until an hour in to level, as Nathan Jones blasted home.

But with 15 minutes remaining, Evans headed home the winner.

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Victories put Glassboys in play-off reach

Stourbridge 2 Marine 0

THE Glassboys moved to within a point of the play-offs with a goal in each half on Monday night.

The visitors played their part in the game and it was the Merseysiders who made the running early on. But they couldn't convert their first half pressure into goals.

Stourbridge grabbed the opener on 19 minutes when Leon Broadhurst broke into the box and squared it for Karl Hawley to easily score his 22nd goal of the season.

On 52 minutes though it was 2-0 when Justin Richards laid the ball off for Chris Lait who stepped into the box and side-footed the ball into the net.

The result lifted the Glassboys to sixth in the table, one place outside the play-off places with three games in hand.

Stourbridge 5 Hyde United 1

ASSISTANT manager Jon Ford has demanded "more of the same" from his Stourbridge side after last Saturday's emphatic demolition job over the Tigers.

Goals from Karl Hawley, Matt Dodd and Chris Lait ended the contest by half-time before second half goals from Justin Richards and Ashley Vincent rounded off an impressive victory for the Glassboys.

"It was the perfect day apart from conceding right at the end," Ford said.

Barwell 3 Stourbridge 1

DAY'S earlier, Stourbridge saw their play-off hopes hit as they well beaten at bogey side Barwell - despite taking the lead on 32 minutes through Karl Hawley.

The Leicestershire side levelled two minutes from half-time via a wind-assisted Alex Tompkinson effort.

Sub Luke Barlone fired play-off rivals Barwell in front on 52 minutes before Brady Hickey finished off the scoring with 12 minutes to go.

Heavyweight champ Fury tops the bill at sporting dinner

CONTROVERSIAL world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury will be the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in Birmingham next month.

The reigning IBO, WBO and WBA 'super' titlist will take centre stage at the newly-opened Vox Centre - part of Resorts World in the National Exhibition Centre - on Friday February 19.

The 27-year-old Mancunian will be interviewed on the night by Telford's Richie Woodhall, the former WBC super-middleweight champion and boxing pundit.

Standard tickets have all sold out but gold and platinum passes are still available, either per person or at a reduced rate for tables of 10.

Gold, costing £75, includes seating in the middle of the hall, a three-course meal and a photo opportunity, for an extra £20, with Fury.

VIP, at £150, includes 'premier' seating, the meal and the picture included in the price. Sponsorship packages are also available. Call promoter Ken Purchase on 07976 842 383 or to buy online, visit www.boxfroguk.com

Giving low-down on golfing tips

Page 43

Lennox making up for lost time

Page 43



CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

DK runners face sticky conditions

IT was another Saturday and another muddy field to run round for athletes from Dudley King-swindon Running Club.

Rather than the bread and butter of the Birmingham League this was like a cup game as the muddy field was in Loughborough and the event was the Midlands Cross Country Championships, attracting clubs from all four points of the compass, making it a particularly competitive event.

Originally due to be held at Stafford Common, waterlogging at the original venue meant a change of plan with Prestwold Hall in Leicestershire stepping in at almost the eleventh hour.

Athletics

The additional travelling distance put a number of runners off but DK were still able to field a strong team to race round the three lap, 12 kilometre course.

Despite a very gluey surface churned up by previous age group races, Ben Foster was first home for the blue hoops in 55th place in 43.07, Rob Meredith was not too far behind in 62nd in 43.20. However Matt Biggs was forced to pull out after two laps, the sticky conditions and uncertain surface aggravating a hamstring problem.

This left Dave Norman to take third place for the club in 161st in 49.10, Daren Thompson finishing fourth counter in 166th in 49.35, Simon Blizzard was 178th in 49.54 and Darran Bishop was sixth counter for the club finishing in 199th in 50.59.

Knocking on the door of the A team, Mark Homer came home in 216th in 52.07, Kieran Pitt was 250th in 54.18, Paul Silk was 268th in 55.30 and Graham Wildgoose was 272nd in 55.52.

With Notts AC, Tipton Harriers and Owls AC taking the medals DK came home a very respectable 13th of the 32 clubs, ahead of the big-hitters of Wolverhampton & Bilston, Birchfield Harriers and Halesowen AC.

Huge total too much for Cookley

Swindon (96-2) lost to Envile 'A' (97-1)
ENVILLE 'A' elected to bowl, and a fine opening spell by Tom Bingham (0-12) and George Roberts contained the Swindon openers, for whom Dave Silcox scored 25 no, to 17 from four overs.

Paul Clarke seemed to ease the stranglehold and Swindon began to score more freely. Luke McDonald was run out for 17. Lee Passmore set about the Envile attack, reached 25 quickly and retired, but the other Swindon batsmen couldn't repair the slow start and the innings finishing at 96.

Envile 'A' got off to a bad start losing Rhodri Parfitt in the first over, but Spencer Mann (27 no) joined Matt Branch (26 no). Once the opening salvo from Passmore had been repelled, the Swindon change bowlers could not contain Envile, who reached their target in comfort in the 10th over.

Pedmore (160-3) beat Cookley (64-2) by 96 runs

DAN Jones (12), opening with Dave Skelding for Pedmore, started in fine style hitting Steve Anderson for three fours before being bowled by Todd Henderson.

Matt Porter (39 no) made battoning look easy and Cookley found the ensuing onslaught difficult to contain. The only batsman to fail for Pedmore was John Herdman who having hit one glorious back wall boundary was bowled by Matt Wood. Paul Taylor (27 no) and Dan Such (20) continued scoring rapidly, finishing on 160.

Cookley, facing a mammoth total, started cautiously with Henderson making a guest appearance.

The big total made the task almost impossible and perhaps a win was out of reach, but Cookley were aided by some wayward bowling, wides being second top scorer.

Yeltz suffer third defeat on the trot

Whitby Town 2 Halesowen Town 1
HALESOWEN suffered their third league defeat in a row, with all three goals in the game coming in eight second-half minutes.

Mikey Roberts missed an open goal at the start of the second half but made no mistake moments later.

Kaiman Anderson equalised for Halesowen on 57 minutes when his shot was blocked by the legs of goalkeeper Shane Bland, but the ball looped into the goal.

Roberts saw a mis-hit shot squeeze past Rowley for the winner.

Halesowen are in 14th place ahead of Saturday's visit of Salford City.



Ollie Shakespeare seen for DK with the ball against Bridgnorth in a closely fought contest

Pressure not converted into points

Stour 3 Leicester Lions 10

STOURBRIDGE'S National 2 North campaign suffered a major blow when they lost at home to Leicester Lions.

Despite dominating first half possession and territory, Stour were guilty of trying to force matters and too many final passes went astray as their

endeavour failed to unlock a well-organised Lions defence that repelled everything thrown at it.

Stour salvaged a losing bonus point but only thanks to the wayward kicking radar of Lions outside half Jon Williams who missed four kicks at goal. After a scoreless first half Lions

struck immediately in the second period with a try for winger Sam Benjamin followed quickly by another for replacement Will Roach.

A late penalty by full-back Tom Mitchell brought Stour within a score but ultimately they paid the price for not converting pressure into points.

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